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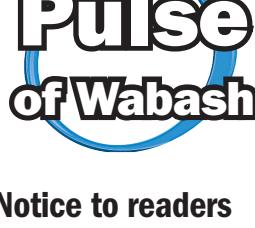


WabashPlainDealer

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WEEKEND EDITION DECEMBER 11-12, 2021

Sunday's weather 46 | 30



Notice to readers

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American Red Cross schedules local blood donation opportunities

The American Red Cross has scheduled several local blood donation opportunities including from 2 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14 at the Wabash County YMCA, 500 S. Cass St.; and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 21 at First United Methodist Church, 110 N. Cass St. Also, a special blood drive has been planned in honor of Kole Adamiec, 6, a North Manchester boy who has been fighting cancer. This dedicated blood drive will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, at Manchester Elementary School, 301 S. River Road, North Manchester. To schedule an appointment, use the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 800-RED-CROSS (800-733-2767).

Hoosier Shakespeare Festival presents Dickens' A Christmas Carol'

Hoosier Shakespeare Festival presents "A Christmas Carol," the classic story by Charles Dickens through Sunday, Dec. 12, in the Fellowship Hall in Christ United Methodist Church, 477 N. Wabash St. Ticket prices range from \$12 to \$18. Discounts are available for seniors, military and groups of 10 or more. Email info@hoosiershakes.com for a discount code. Tickets may be purchased by visiting https://811-briarwood-ln.ticketleap.com or at the door at 100 S. Washington St. Doors open 30 minutes before the performance. "A

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Pandemic's deadliest week locally as 6 new deaths reported

For the third week in a row, ISDH's Wabash County COVID-19 advisory level at red

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

For the third week in a row, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) showed Wabash County's COVID-19 advisory as red, the highest level.

Also, this week, the ISDH reported six new local COVID-19 deaths, making this the deadliest week for Wabash County since the start of the pandemic.

On Tuesday, the ISDH reported two more local COVID-19 deaths, bringing Wabash County's total to 113. On Wednesday, the ISDH reported four more local COVID-19 deaths, bringing Wabash County's total to 117.

The week before, the ISDH

also reported three new local COVID-19 deaths this week.

Due to this heightened community spread, local libraries have once again instituted masking policies.

On Tuesday, Nov. 30, North Manchester Public Library (NMPL) adult department manager and marketing coordinator Jeanna Hann said that properly worn face masks were now required inside the library.

Hann said the change was due to the county's red status

and would apply until that level returned to orange, the second-highest level.

On Thursday, Dec. 2, Wabash Carnegie Public Library (WCPL) executive director Ware W. Wimberly said their policies would be reviewed at their upcoming board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 14, and may change. The meeting will be open to the public at the Falls Cemetery Chapel, 745 Falls Ave., due to space limitations in the

library building.

Wimberly said when Wabash County reaches the red level, as it is now, they "strongly advise library patrons to wear masks and have ones available for patrons to use."

Wimberly said when the level returns to orange, masks would be optional for both staff and library patrons.

However, Wimberly said due to the red status all library

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Jim Brickman brings 'The Gift of Christmas'

Acclaimed singer-songwriter brings holiday show Thursday to Eagles Theatre

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

Next week acclaimed singer-songwriter Jim Brickman will bring his holiday show to Wabash.

His "The Gift of Christmas" concert is set for 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16 at Eagles Theatre and will "blend yuletide memories and holiday carols with his hit songs" such as, "The Gift," "Sending You A Little Christmas," "Angel Eyes" and "If You Believe," said Honeywell Arts & Entertainment public relations specialist Michele DeViney. The concert is sponsored by Bickford Assisted Living of Wabash. Most seats are \$29 or \$39, with limited premium seating for \$69. Tickets are on sale now by calling 260-563-1102 or by visiting www.honeywellarts.org.

"It's our Christmas show. It's a very intimate venue, which I love," said Brickman, during a recent phone interview. "To me, this Christmas tour is about a more intimate, almost like I'm in your living room, a very familiar, comfortable type of environment. And I haven't been there in a long time, and of course, we've been off for a couple of years. So, I'm looking forward to being back on the road and coming back to Wabash and having it be a real celebration of gathering again."

Brickman also discussed his history as a commercial jingle writer, his success as



Provided photo

Next week acclaimed singer-songwriter Jim Brickman will bring his holiday show to Wabash.

a singer-songwriter in his own right and how to construct the perfect Christmas song.

Jingle writing
Brickman grew up in

Cleveland. He said he'd always been a piano player, but more of a songwriter in his teenage years.

"I gravitated towards more of a songwriting interest when it came to playing by

ear and not reading music all that," said Brickman. "So, it lent itself to my ability to write strong melodies that were simple, but also

See BRICKMAN, page A3

'Babe in Toyland' event returns for the second year

In 2020, the drive ended up serving approximately 349 children and 132 families

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

For the second year in a row, Babe of Wabash County is once again holding its holiday toy drive and distribution, "Babe in Toyland," said executive director Katelyn Till.

Last year, during the four days they were open, the drive ended up serving approximately 349 children and 132 families.

Till said the program will once again provide toys and Christmas presents to children ages 18 and below to "families in need."

The dates and times for this year's toy distribution will be from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 21; from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 22; and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 23 at Babe of Wabash County, 88 W. Hill St.

Till said parents and legal

guardians qualify for assistance. There are no income restrictions, no pre-registration required and parents will fill out a family form at the door.

Till said parents and legal guardians will shop at Babe's Christmas store for new and free toys and items. No cash is needed.

Last year, Till's then-10-year-old daughter, Daisy, checked people in at the front door and assigned points to each family based on how many children they had. Till said the families were given 10 points per child to shop with inside. Each item in the drive was valued at a certain number of points.

Till said the point system would once again, a point system is used to shop for the items.

Till said the point system at the time of



Provided photo

Volunteers remove boxes of toys from the basement of the Old Wabash City Hall in preparation for last year's event.

News release connected to Delphi case touches off local media flurry

Name of 'fictitious' social media profile appears in court document for Miami County child pornography case

By JARED KEEVER

Peru Tribune Editor

A news release from investigators in the 2017 killing of two teenage girls in Delphi brought television news crews to Miami County this week and touched off a flurry of speculation across social media and other outlets that the case may be nearing a resolution.

But officials have stopped well short of saying that they have a new suspect or even a person of interest in the killing of Liberty German and Abigail Williams.

German, 14 and Williams, 13, disappeared Feb. 13, 2017 while hiking along a trail near their hometown. Their bodies were found the next day in nearby woods. The case,

See DELPHI, page A2

State timber sale sparks controversy over forest management

DNR sells 1,000 trees at Salamonie forest to lone bidder for \$10K

By ANDREW MACIEJEWSKI

Chronicle-Tribune Editor

A timber sale at Salamonie River State Forest is drawing criticism from conservation groups and activists after the state sold nearly 1,000 trees for \$10,000 to a lone bidder last week, according to the Indiana Forest Alliance (IFA).

IFA officials say the sale price equates to about 6 cents per board foot, while the average low price for low-quality timber in Indiana was about 30 cents per board foot in 2020. Activists claim the state ignored its requirement to set a minimum bid to ensure taxpayers' resources weren't given a bad deal.

"When the state sells timber by whole tracts from the state forest, as it did in this sale,

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DELPHI

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which has drawn intense media attention over the past four years, remains unsolved.

More attention came Monday when the Indiana State Police put out a release saying that they were seeking information from anyone who may have communicated with a social media account bearing the name "anthony_shots."

"This profile was being used from 2016 to 2017 on social media applications, including but not limited to, Snapchat and Instagram. The fictitious anthony_shots profile used images of a known male model and portrayed himself as being extremely wealthy and owning numerous sports cars," the release said, explaining that the "male model" in the profile's photos had been identified, that the photos had been stolen for the purposes of creating the account, and that the model was not a suspect.

"The creator of the fictitious profile used this information while communicating with juvenile females to solicit nude images, obtain their addresses, and attempt to meet them," the release said.

By Tuesday, news organizations, following an initial report from Indianapolis' WISH-TV, had begun reporting that the "anthony_shots" profile name appeared in a probable cause affidavit in Miami County in a child pornography case against 27-year-old Kegan Anthony Kline.

Kline, who has not been charged in connection with the Delphi killings or named as a suspect or person of interest in the case, is facing 30 felony charges including multiple counts of possession of child pornography, as well as counts of child exploitation, obstruction of justice, and synthetic identity deception.

The affidavit in his case ties him to the "anthony_shots" account and says that members of the Peru Police Department, Indiana State Police and FBI served a search warrant at a Peru home on Feb. 25, 2017 after authorities learned that someone using the account on Snapchat and

Instagram was "soliciting female juveniles."

He wasn't arrested on the charges he now faces until August 2020.

The revelations in the court documents had news crews knocking on the door of the home where the search warrant was served, interviewing Miami County residents and broadcasting from the courthouse square.

They also touched off social media chatter and speculation about a coming break in the case and, in some cases, even side-by-side comparisons of Kline's booking photo to sketches released by authorities in the investigation by various true crime and amateur sleuthing outlets.

That type of frenzied online activity has drawn criticism from authorities in the past.

In 2019, the Carroll County Sheriff's Office, according to a WISH-TV report, asked members of the public to stop posting side-by-side comparisons of people to a newly released sketch.

"You are ruining innocent peoples lives," a Facebook post from the Sheriff's Office said.

And just this year, Carroll County Sheriff Tobe Leazenby, according to the Lafayette Journal & Courier, said his office would no longer be releasing any information about possible suspects after the arrest of a Lafayette man, James Brian Chadwell II, on charges in a Tippecanoe County case including attempted murder, kidnapping and child molestation, sparked a frenzy of speculation about the Delphi case. (Chadwell has since pleaded guilty to those charges.)

Leazenby reportedly told the Journal & Courier shortly after Chadwell's arrest that his office was aware of the Chadwell case and investigators were looking into him, but pointed out that investigators had looked into several other people who did not turn out to be suspects.

"That J&C story touched off reports from news outlets across the country, some of which incorrectly reported that Chadwell was the suspect in the Delphi killings," as pointed out by Chadwell's attorney in a change of venue motion for the Tippecanoe

case, an October story from the Journal & Courier said. "By the middle of summer, Leazenby announced they were imposing a blackout on possible suspects in the killings of Libby and Abby."

Authorities aren't saying much this week after Monday's release regarding the anthony_shots account.

State Police spokesman for the Lafayette District, Sgt. Jeremy Piers, declined to answer questions from the Tribune about the timeline regarding the search of the Peru residence and Kline's arrest or whether investigators believed there may have been more than one user of the anthony_shots account.

In an email he said that the State Police "do not confirm or deny anyone who is or is not a suspect in any ongoing investigation."

"At this time, we are looking for any information about the 'anthony_shots' profile and anyone who may have had contact with that profile," he wrote.

Kline's attorney, Andrew Achey, did not return a call from the Tribune on Thursday but, according to NBC News, released a statement saying: "My client had nothing to do with the unexpected, untimely and unfortunate passing of the girls in Delphi."

"Please keep in mind that Mr. Kline is innocent unless he is proven guilty. And after reviewing the social media posts about Mr. Kline, I would also like to remind people to refrain from jumping to conclusions about Mr. Kline, as Mr. Kline has not been charged with a crime relating to the recent reports," the statement said.

For more information about Monday's news release from the State Police, see the separate story in Saturday's Tribune or online at perutribune.com.

Anyone with information about the Delphi case or the anthony_shots profile is asked to contact law enforcement by using the tip email/phone number: abbyandlibbytip@cacoshrf.com or 765-822-3535.

This story contains reporting from The Associated Press. Jared Keever, Peru Tribune editor, may be reached by email at jkeever@perutribune.com.

east Indiana," said Farrant.

For more information, visit www.neinworks.org/ workone-locations.

At the state level, on Wednesday, Nov. 24, Gov. Eric Holcomb said he planned to extend the public health emergency for another 30 days while legislators meet at the Statehouse to determine the next steps.

"Last week I made clear what would be necessary to responsibly allow the state public health emergency to expire. However, following the announcement that the General Assembly will not return on Monday, Nov. 29, I plan to extend the state public health emergency and the executive order next week for another 30 days to preserve the necessary provisions. I will continue to work closely with Speaker Huston and Senator Bray as we move into the next legislative session," said Holcomb.

Then, on Friday, Dec. 3, Holcomb signed Executive Orders 21-31 and 21-32 to continue the public health emergency and the executive order for pro-

visions that address the impact of COVID-19.

"Extending the executive orders allows key items to remain in place that protect Hoosiers," said press secretary Erin Murphy.

Murphy said Holcomb had outlined three provisions that necessitate the extension of a public health emergency and executive order.

"First, Indiana is eligible to receive enhanced federal funding for Medicaid programs to help cover the increased costs of 500,000 Hoosiers who have enrolled in the programs because of the pandemic. So far, the state has received \$972 million in enhanced funding. The state would lose more than \$175 million in future funding through March 2022 and about 250,000 Hoosiers would lose partial or full Medicaid coverage if the state public health emergency ends before the federal public health emergency," said Murphy.

Murphy said the executive orders allow 200,000 eligible households to receive an addi-

5-Day Weather Summary

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Rain Likely	Sunny	Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Cloudy
61 / 27	46 / 30	50 / 33	54 / 46	62 / 52
Sun and Moon				
Today's sunset 5:19 p.m.	Tomorrow's sunrise 7:54 a.m.			
 Full 12/18	 Last 12/26	 New 1/2	 First 1/9	

Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with a 100% chance of rain, high temperature of 61°, humidity of 74%. West southwest wind 15 to 25 mph. Expect clear skies tonight with an overnight low of 27°. West southwest wind 6 to 15 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 22°.

LOGGING

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rather than cutting and marketing the trees individually, Indiana taxpayers, the trees' owners, are short-changed," IFA said in a statement, adding claims that the trees marked for sale were not of inferior quality. "Veneer quality trees, each worth thousands of dollars, are sold for firewood prices."

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) said the sale was necessary to improve the health of the forest by removing problem trees and allow for regeneration. The sales help with forest management, state officials say.

DNR officials did not respond to a request for comment as of deadline Tuesday.

IFA says the project "does nothing to improve forest health, claiming it "disrupts the cycle of life and often increases the spread of detrimental non-native invasive species, which then harm forest health. The use of heavy equipment to remove the selected trees requires the construction of roads, they claim, which causes negative effects to the environment and harms wildlife."

"The heavy equipment also removes the downed logs that characterize a high quality mature forest, which act as habitats for many forest species. The equipment also crushes turtles, snakes, salamanders and many other species that live on the forest floor, interferes with recreational uses of the forest, and contributes to soil erosion and polluted runoff that can threaten water quality downstream," IFA officials said in

a statement.

The timber sale included 984 "merchantable" trees in total. Instead of clear-cutting a section of the forest, state officials hand-selected trees from the 127-acre tract positioned on the north end of the property.

The sale notice states that the company that wins the bid must remove the trees by March 11, 2022. The notice also stipulates when the trees can be removed to reduce impact on the environment.

"Skidding & hauling allowed during stable soil conditions only. All trails must be cleared of debris and groomed to equal or better conditions prior to harvest," the notice states. "All mapped streams (east-west) must be cleared of debris."

The contract includes a provision that states "wildlife concerns may result in an alteration of sale conditions."

Protestors petitioned the state in 2019 to turn Salamonie River State Forest into a state park since commercial logging is not permitted on state park grounds. The petition, which about 900 citizens signed, caused the plan to stall for three months in 2019 until it was rejected.

The timber sale was included in a 20-year plan published in 2014 regarding forest management at Salamonie River State Forest and Frances Slocum State Forest.

The 20-year plan said logging was necessary to remove pine trees and allow native hardwoods to regenerate, but advocates against logging took issue with the state's claims, noting that only about one-third of the trees selected were pine trees.

Pine trees made up approximately 37 percent of the lum-

ber selected to be harvested, according to the timber sale notice published this fall.

IFA said it "strongly disagrees" that the trees included in the sale were crooked or inferior.

"The state also claims that many of the trees marked for sale are diseased or dying. If this is the case, it begs the question that, if the DNR has been managing the state forests 'scientifically' to 'ensure forest health' for the last 100 years, why is it necessary now to virtually give away trees to 'improve forest health.' A question the DNR will not answer," IFA officials said.

While documents outlining forest management at Frances Slocum State Forest include logging plans, no active timber sale notice has been posted to the state's website.

"The forest management operation at Salamonie River State Forest has always been about improving forest diversity. Potential bidders had to factor in the impacts of seasonal operations, a short management window, and minimizing their impact on the environment. These constraints may have lowered our financial gain, but are in place because we value the long-term health of our forests, and all that live, grow and recreate there more," said DNR Division of Communications director JB Brindle, on Wednesday in response to a Plain Dealer request.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, contributed to this story. Andrew Maciejewski, Chronicle-Tribune editor, may be reached by email at amaciejewski@chronicle-tribune.com.

DEATHS

From page A1

programming indoors is currently being done with take-home kits or virtually.

Wimberly said once the level went back orange they would resume indoor programming with optional masks for participants and staff.

Meanwhile, all 11 WorkOne Northeast career centers will shift indefinitely to mostly telephonic and virtual services beginning Monday, Dec. 13, said director of communications Rick Farrant. Farrant said in-person appointments will still be mandated for Re-employment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) customers, and those seeking to utilize Unemployment Insurance (UI) phone services in the centers can still make appointments to enter a center.

"Northeast Indiana Works, which oversees the WorkOne Northeast centers, is enacting the limitations in light of increased COVID cases in north-

eastern Indiana," said Farrant.

For more information, visit www.neinworks.org/ workone-locations.

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Murphy said all directives in executive orders which have continued throughout the public health emergency will expire on Dec. 31.

"A continuation of the public health emergency and the executive order beyond Dec. 31, may be deemed necessary to preserve the specified provisions," said Murphy.

All this news comes as the number of positive COVID-19 cases in Wabash County has surpassed 6,400 and local vaccination rates continue to lag

behind the state average. In the zip code 46992, which comprises Wabash, 40.8 percent of the eligible population has been vaccinated. Statewide, that figure sits at 53.6 percent, as of Friday, Dec. 10.

The eligible population for vaccinations increased earlier last month as the minimum age was lowered from 12 to 5. On Wednesday, Nov. 3, the ISDH announced that Hoosiers ages 5 to 11 are now eligible for a free COVID-19 vaccine following the previous day's authorization of the pediatric vaccine by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Murphy said all directives in executive orders which have continued throughout the public health emergency will expire on Dec. 31.

"The Pfizer vaccine is the only COVID-19 vaccine that is currently authorized for use in individuals under age 18.

On Friday, Nov. 19, the ISDH announced that any Hoosier age 18 or older can now receive a booster dose of the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines if they received their second dose at least six months ago.

Earlier that same day, the CDC approved the administration of a booster dose of both vaccines for people aged 18 and older following the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) decision to expand its Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for boosters. Previously, the FDA had approved a third dose for immunocompromised individuals and had allowed boosters for individuals who met certain criteria.

Individuals may still choose which COVID-19 vaccine to receive as a booster shot. Some people may prefer the vaccine type that they originally received, and others may prefer to get a different booster. Individuals who received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine are eligible for a booster two months or more after their initial dose.

Parents who wish to schedule an appointment for their child to receive the vaccine and Hoosiers age 18 and older who want to obtain a booster dose may visit www.ourshot.in.gov or call 211 or 866-211-9966.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

WE'RE CERES. ARE YOU A MEMBER?

Annual Meeting for Cooperative Shareholders

> financial results

> election of directors

> business review

> Q&A: Jeff Troike, CEO

Tuesday, December 21, 2021

at 1:3

Accused Oxford High shooter had handgun popular with police, militaries and Hollywood

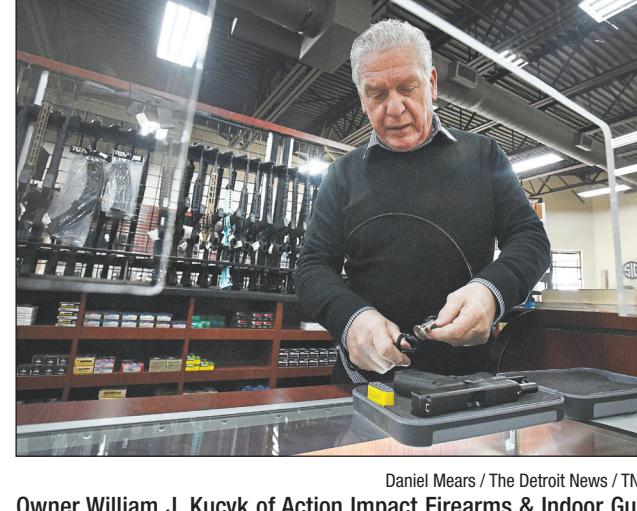
By GEORGE HUNTER

The Detroit News (TNS)

OXFORD, Mich. — The pistol that allegedly was used in the Oxford High School attack is a firearm used by police and militaries worldwide that's been discontinued by the manufacturer, local gun dealers say.

Sig Sauer introduced the SP 2022 in 2002 as a service weapon in France for the Gendarmerie, the police division that's responsible for patrolling small towns and rural areas, and the country's Customs Agency and National Police. The gun was designed to have a 20-year service life, hence the model name.

The firearm is still available in Metro Detroit but is not particularly popular among gun enthusiasts, dealers say.



Owner William J. Kucyk of Action Impact Firearms & Indoor Gun Range shows how to secure a semi-automatic handgun in a gun safe in Eastpointe, Michigan on Wednesday.

Daniel Mears / The Detroit News / TNS

"They quit manufacturing it a few years ago, and the only way stores would have it now is if they had it in their inven-

money but it's still hitting a place where you're the go-to and I didn't want to be that at 28 years old. I felt like I wanted to do more."

Move to Los Angeles

Brickman said that after a decade or more of jingle writing in the Midwest, he was ready to take the plunge and move to Los Angeles.

"I thought there would be an opportunity in the music business. I didn't know what it was going to be. I wasn't pursuing anything specific. All I knew was there would be an opportunity there more so than Cleveland and Chicago where it was really just advertising that I could do. It's not like now where you can be from anywhere and people could be following on social media," said Brickman.

Brickman said he used it to hone his skills as a songwriter and producer and "take advantage of what I was good at which was melody writing and pop songwriting."

tory for a while," said William Kucyk, owner of Action Impact Firearms & Training Center in Southfield and East-

ships. He said he received nearly three dozen denials before he was finally signed.

Working with the stars

From there, Brickman began garnering more attention for his talents, working with stars such as Kenny Rogers.

"I find that the icons are the most gracious, the most professional, the most respectful. And I think it's because they've been around the block. They've seen the ups and downs and they appreciate the breadth of their career. When you work with up and comers or medium success, it's not as much that way," said Brickman.

Brickman said one of the first tours where we was a co-bill was with Olivia Newton-John.

"That was such a career break. She was so wonderful and so respectful and I learned so much about performing. But it's true with all those kind of people," said Brickman.

"Donny Osmond, who was a guest on my tour for three years. Johnny Mathis, Kenny Loggins, Burt Bacharach. These are all people who were so kind and had such great attitudes and collaborators.

As opposed to some of the up and comers who shall remain nameless who weren't that way."

Christmas music

Brickman said his music by nature is apropos of Christmas because it's already "romantic, nostalgic, familiar, comfortable, beautiful."

"It's all those things. It's not like I'm a rock star who decides to do a Christmas album. So, right off the bat, I'm still in the genre that I excel at. So a part of that makes it a little bit easier," said Brickman.

Brickman said there also aren't a lot of instrumental solo piano Christmas cover songs.

"If you hear a Christmas song, 90 percent of the time it's a vocal rendition. So the standards are easy," said Brickman.

Brickman said he approaches the original song for Christmas by writing about people and relation-

pointe. "Sometimes, distributors will buy a boatload of a certain product and have them leftover after they stop being made. It's been a few years since we carried that model."

Ethan Crumbley, the 15-year-old alleged shooter, was with his father, James Crumbley, on Nov. 26 when the father bought the 9 mm semi-automatic pistol at Acme Shooting Goods in Oxford, police said.

His mother, Jennifer Crumbley, posted a picture of the weapon on social media, police and prosecutors said, with the caption, "Mom & son day testing out our new Xmas present. My first time shooting a 9mm I hit the bullseye."

The picture shows the pistol inside a padded box with one clip in the gun and two beside it, laid over a Youth Handgun

Safety Act Notice pamphlet from the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

The Youth Handgun Safety Act Notice states: "The misuse of handguns is a leading contributor to juvenile violence and fatalities," and "safely storing and securing firearms away from children will help prevent the unlawful possession of handguns by juveniles, stop accidents, and save lives."

In the four days between the purchase of the gun and the Nov. 30 shooting, Ethan Crumbley posted pictures of the pistol and a target on social media, police and prosecutors said. One Instagram photo shows a hand holding the gun with the caption, "Just got my new beauty today. SIG SAUER 9mm. Ask any questions I will answer."

Authorities in multiple countries, including the United States, have used the gun. In 2004, the U.S. Army Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command at the Rock Island Arsenal in Arsenal Island, Illinois, purchased 5,000 SP 2022 pistols chambered in 9 mm.

Police or military personnel in Colombia, Peru, Malaysia, Bulgaria, Trinidad, Portugal and Switzerland have also used the model.

The Model 2022 also has been popular in Hollywood.

The gun appeared in the 2014 video game "World of Guns: Gun Disassembly" and in a handful of television shows. It also has been featured in more than a dozen movies since 2006, according to the Internet Movie Firearms Database.

BRICKMAN

From page A1

emotional."

Brickman said career-wise, his options were fairly limited given his location.

"When you're from a place like Cleveland — or, let's say, Wabash — you're fairly limited in pursuing a bit music career of sorts," said Brickman. "I never had any dreams of doing what I do now. It wasn't something that I was after. But I loved songwriting."

Brickman said he saw writing commercial jingles as "a great way to write and to be still in Cleveland."

Brickman said he used it to hone his skills as a songwriter and producer and "take advantage of what I was good at which was melody writing and pop songwriting."

Brickman said he started this career path when he was 19 years old and continued with it for about 12 years after.

"It started local but then it became national," said Brickman. "It started with banks and malls and regional things. Anything that needed a jingle. Then I moved to Chicago and started to write more national stuff for McDonald's and 7-Up and Kraft and Keibler. Then it became much bigger, but it's an extremely, extremely competitive thing to do. Not as much on a local level, but it's very competitive."

Brickman said to score an account was akin to winning a contest.

Brickman said often they would pick about 10 people, give them each \$1,000 and then tell them to create a demo out of the specs given for that particular account.

"Then you have to win those competitions. So if you don't win you can't really make a good living at it," said Brickman. "There's lots of schmoozing. What I do now is like a vacation. I work really, really hard, but the objective and the result of what I do now is much more fulfilling."

Brickman said he attained some level of success in jingle writing, but that he had taken it about as far as he was comfortable.

"When everybody's asking you questions and coming to you for answers you realize that you have to keep learning and keep growing and you've reached a certain point where it's just more of the same. It doesn't really lead anywhere," said Brickman. "You can be more successful at it and make more

Christmas song,

"is a love song, not a Christmas song."

"You observe the way people are with each other," said Brickman. "It's a much easier approach. If you write about the Christmas tree, Santa, what I call a 'list song,' it tends to be somewhat unemotional because yes you're creating a picture, but it's very trite and cliché. Most original Christmas songs are extremely trite."

Brickman said usually there are only a few real formulas for Christmas songs.

"Basically, 'It wouldn't be Christmas without you,' in some fashion. 'You're so far away.' 'I'm going to miss you so much this Christmas.'

'I can't wait for you to be home.' 'All I want for Christmas is you,'" said Brickman.

"There are 20 songs about

'All I want for Christmas is you. I don't need the presents. I don't need this. I don't need that. I just want you.'

There are so many of those. I try to write stories

so that people see the people and relate to the people in the songs."

Brickman said his song,

"The Gift," his most popular

right now, so it's very hard

to stay the course and be true to yourself because there is no right answer. My feeling is since there is no right answer, you might as well be true to yourself, because

it's just as likely you'll be successful with that as anything, so you might as well be who you are."

Brickman said as he changes and grows as a musician as a performer, he always makes sure to stay true to himself.

"At the core I have one main brand mission and (with) the audience you have to make sure you're true to their expectations while you grow and learn," said Brickman.

"You have to work really hard. You have to learn all facets of it, the business of it. How to be a great performer. Not just, 'Oh, here's my song.' You have to be humble and not (be) doing it because you want to be famous or something like that."

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

Advice to younger musicians

Brickman said one of the main lessons he's learned in both life and songwriting is "that you have to be who you are."

"You'll always have people around you that will say, 'You know what you should do? You should be more like such and such.' You know what's really popular right now is such and such and you should be more like that," said Brickman. "In the business of music they want the next version of what's hot



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at the Wabash County Community Center

ACCT 101	Financial Accounting	W	6 - 8:50 p.m.
ECED 101	Health, Safety, Nutrition	Tu	5:30 - 8:20 p.m.
ECED 103	Curriculum Early Childhood	Tu	5:30 - 8:20 p.m.
ECED 120	Child Growth and Development	Tu	5:30 - 8:20 p.m.
ENGL 111	English Composition	M	12:30 - 3:20 p.m.
MATH 123	Quantitative Reasoning	Th	6 - 8:50 p.m.
MKTG 101	Principles of Marketing	M, W	6 - 8:50 p.m.
LOGM 127	Intro to Logistics	M	6:30 - 7:50 p.m.
LOGM 229	Transportation Systems	M	6:30 - 7:50 p.m.

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IVY TECH
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Opinion

SPEAK UP

How to contact
your legislators:

**U.S. Sen. Todd Young,
R-Ind.**
B33 Russell Senate
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
1-202-224-5623
<http://young.senate.gov/contact>

**U.S. Sen. Mike Braun,
R-Ind.**
B85 Russell Senate
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-4814
<http://braun.senate.gov/>

**U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski,
R-District 2**
419 Cannon House
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3915

**State Sen. Andy Zay,
R-District 17**
Indiana Senate
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9467
Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

**State Rep. Craig Snow,
R-District 18**
Indiana House
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9841
h18@in.gov

To email any
Indiana lawmaker,
go to this website:
www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl

LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.



DAILY SCRIPTURE

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Revelation 22:20

Parents who bring guns into their homes must be responsible for securing them

In the school shooting that left four students dead last week in Michigan, Americans heard a familiar detail. Authorities said the student who allegedly committed the shooting obtained the weapon from his own home, after his father reportedly purchased it for him as a gift.

This is disturbing but not surprising – studies show that 75-80 percent of weapons used in school shootings come from students' households, or from the homes of relatives or friends. Meanwhile, unsecured firearms that wind up in children's hands are used in thousands of shootings annually in settings other than schools.

Yet adults whose unsecured weapons are used in these shootings are almost never punished for their negligence. In 19 states, it's not even a crime to leave a loaded weapon where a child can get a hold of it. In those states, you would face legal consequences for shoplifting a bag of Doritos, but not for failing to secure a gun that a kid uses to commit suicide, kill their classmates or accidentally shoot a sibling or playmate.

Nevada does have a so-called Child Access Prevention (CAP) law, passed in 2019, which makes it a misdemeanor on first offense and a felony on second and subsequent offenses for an adult to allow a gun to wind up being used by a child. But the state can, and should, do more. State lawmakers should start planning now to beef up the CAP law in 2023 when they assemble for their next full legislative session.

When unsecured guns are used in commission of a crime or in extreme negligence, such as allowing children access to guns that results in a death, those responsible for not securing the firearms should face felony charges. This would give prosecutors the ability to charge parents with murder if those firearms were to be used in shootings involving children.

After all, why shouldn't parents or others allowing children access to unsecured guns be

charged in these cases? The prosecutor handling the Oxford High School shooting in Michigan certainly believes it's appropriate to hold the parents in this case legally accountable, as she filed four counts of involuntary manslaughter against them. It's a proper move, given that authorities reported that the student's father purchased the gun used in the shooting shortly before the incident, and that the student's mother excused him for searching online for ammunition on a school computer, among other details.

"While the shooter was the one who entered the high school and pulled the trigger, there were other individuals who contributed to the events," said the prosecutor, Karen McDonald.

Improper gun storage is a deadly and chronic problem in American homes, and has been for some time despite pleas from children's health care providers, schools, gun-safety advocates and many others.

Clearly, something needs to be done to get gun owners' attention. Stiffer penalties would help.

Unfortunately, efforts to establish safe-storage laws in several states – including Michigan – run into brick-wall opposition from the gun-rights lobby and citizens who have been misled to believe that any responsible gun-safety measure equates to an effort to abolish the Second Amendment. This is a false argument on several fronts. Laws designed to enforce secure and safe gun storage in the home don't prevent Americans from owning firearms, they just require responsible gun ownership. In addition, limiting the felony exposure to unsecured guns used in a crime or in cases of extreme negligence has ample precedent in the application of other laws where an individual callously takes actions that result in crime or in the death of innocents at the hands of others.

Amid the epidemic of child gun deaths and injuries in the U.S., safe storage is an area that must be addressed.

According to the Children's Defense Fund, child and teen

gun deaths reached a record high in 2017 and have remained near those levels since. Guns kill more U.S. children and teens than cancer, pneumonia, influenza, asthma, HIV/AIDS, and opioids combined, the organization reports.

In many of these cases, the shootings are occurring after children come across guns stored improperly. A recent survey showed that in 2 out of 10 American households that own firearms, weapons are being stored in the most unsafe way possible – loaded and unsecured. It's a problem that threatens to keep getting worse, due to record-level gun purchasing in recent years that has left the country awash in something like 400 million weapons in civilian hands.

Beefing up CAP laws wouldn't violate a single person's Second Amendment rights. States already require that children use guns only under adult supervision, and increased penalties wouldn't affect the many responsible firearm owners who, being the rational individuals they are, keep weapons secured.

A tougher set of these laws wouldn't prevent all school shootings. But it would be a powerful step toward compelling gun owners to take their deadly weapons more seriously and store them more safely.

Here's an alarming fact: The shooting at Oxford High was the 29th school shooting this year in the U.S., a record.

For years, our children have been crying out for protection from the very real threat of violence at schools. It's past time for the adults to accept our responsibility to keep America's children from harm as best we can, and one way is to get the attention of the irresponsible individuals among us who don't keep their weapons out of children's hands. Public service announcements and education clearly aren't doing the trick – we need to establish some serious legal consequences for improper storage of weapons.

This editorial was first published in the Las Vegas Sun.

You – yes, you – are a miracle

Do me a favor. Pause for a moment today and consider what a miracle you are.

That request springs from a 10-year-old article I stumbled across so interesting that I set it aside to write about sometime in the future.

I guess that time is now. Ali Binazir, writing for the Huffington Post in

2011, said he was intrigued by the oft-cited statistic, which he had just heard in a TED talk, that the odds of a specific individual being born were about one in 400 trillion.

Even if you just accept that number, beating the odds against your birth would be worth celebrating as the longest of long shots. But Binazir did a little back-of-the-envelope math and came up with even more astonishing odds.

He began by calculating the probability that two specific people – your parents – out of the billions on Earth would meet and have a relationship lasting long enough to have children at around one in 40 million. And you are the result of one particular sperm, which your father would produce 12 trillion of during his reproductive lifetime, meeting one particular viable egg, of which your mother would have had about 100,000.

"So the probability of that one sperm with half your name on it hitting that one egg with the other half of your name on it is one in 400 quadrillion."

But that's just getting started. You have to do the same calculations for your parents' four parents and get similar odds for those specific people being born, then your grandparents' eight parents, and so on and so on back to the dawn of time.

What he ended up with was 400 quadrillion to the 150,000th power. That's a 10 followed by 2,640,000 zeroes. "So what's the probability of your being born? It's the probability of 2.5 million people getting together ... each to play a game of dice with trillion-sided dice. They each roll the dice – and they all come up the exact same number."

The odds are so great as to be unimaginable, nearly incalculable. You should not even be here.

Yet, there you sit, reading this column, taking in the world around you through all your senses, thinking your unique thoughts.

A miracle.

My life has dimmed a bit today because it is missing a miracle.

I just learned that my Aunt Lou, having made it to her 90s, died in her sleep. She was the last of a generation in our family. Now, it's just my brother and sister and me and all our cousins.

When my mother died, I experienced the same kind of grief I had when my father died years earlier, but something else, too: a sense of being adrift, cut off from my past and forced to carry the load alone that had been passed on generation to generation. With Aunt Lou's passing, I feel that combination of awe and terror even more acutely.

As strongly as I feel that pang of isolation now, despite having achieved it so late in life, I cannot begin to imagine what it must be like to be orphaned at a young age, always yearning for the connections that most of us take for granted. If each individual is a miracle, each family is a wonderment of multiplied miracles. I don't know which is worse, to never know the wonderment or to have it and not appreciate it.

I doubt if my aunt thought about the miracle of life. She was a hill woman from a generation that knew doing your chores was the only way to stay one step ahead of hardship. But she lived the miracle. I never heard her complain, and she raised a good family. She didn't break faith with her ancestors, and she gave the next generation everything she had.

I think there is a lesson in there somewhere.

History isn't just a passing of the torch or an accumulation of wisdom. It should be a celebration of miracles.

You can look at yourself as just one of the nearly 8 billion people now living and the 117 billion or so who have ever lived, here and gone in a flash, flesh crumbling into the dust of the ages, one more grain of sand on an infinite beach.

But you can also understand that among the vast sea of humanity, you are absolutely unique. There has never been another you, and there never will be.

You are a miracle. Don't waste it.

Leo Morris, columnist for The Indiana Policy Review, is winner of the Hoosier Press Association's award for Best Editorial Writer. Morris, as opinion editor of the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel, was named a finalist in editorial writing by the Pulitzer Prize committee. Contact him at leoedits@yahoo.com.

HISTORY

Today is Saturday, Dec. 11, the 345th day of 2021. There are 20 days left in the year.

Highlight in history:

On Dec. 11, 1972, Apollo 17's lunar module landed on the moon with astronauts Eugene Cernan and Harrison Schmitt aboard; they became the last two men to date to step onto the lunar surface.

On this date:

In 1816, Indiana became the 19th state.

In 1910, French inventor Georges Claude publicly displayed his first neon lamp, consisting of two 38-foot-long tubes, at the Paris Expo.

In 1936, Britain's King Edward VIII abdicated the throne so he could marry American divorcee Wallis Warfield Simpson; his brother, Prince Albert, became King George VI.

In 1941, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States; the U.S. responded in kind.

In 1946, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was established.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Jean-Louis Trintignant is 91. Actor Rita Moreno is 90. Pop singer David Gates (Bread) is 81. Actor Donna Mills is 81. Former Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., is 80. Former U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is 78. Singer Brenda Lee is 77. Actor Lynda Day George is 77. Music producer Tony Brown is 75. Actor Teri Garr is 74.

LETTERS

97 percent of all youth who vape use flavored e-cigarettes.

The lack of regulation and enforcement around e-cigarettes opened the door for an abundance of products. Newer disposable devices have grown in popularity as JUUL halted sales of some sweet and fruity flavors last year under scrutiny for its leading role in the youth e-cigarette epidemic.

Online search trends suggest that disposable e-cigarettes are increasing in popularity. An article in the journal Tobacco Control, "The rise of disposable JUUL-type e-cigarette devices," reports that a Google search resulted in 31 brands of disposable products on the first results page, with devices "priced as low as \$4.60 with up to 7 percent nicotine (a higher concentration than JUUL) and advertising 200 puffs."

These products are priced significantly lower than JUUL, which costs up to \$34.99 for the device with JUUL pods sold separately in the U.S. According to the article: "Disposable products may surge in popularity with minors and prompt users of all ages to try and become addicted to vaping when they might not have tried it otherwise due to the cost of entry."

Puff Bars share many similarities to JUUL but have some key differences.

Just like JUUL, a Puff Bar is small enough to fit in a pocket, resembles a USB flash drive and heats a cartridge containing e-liquid to create a vapor-like substance.

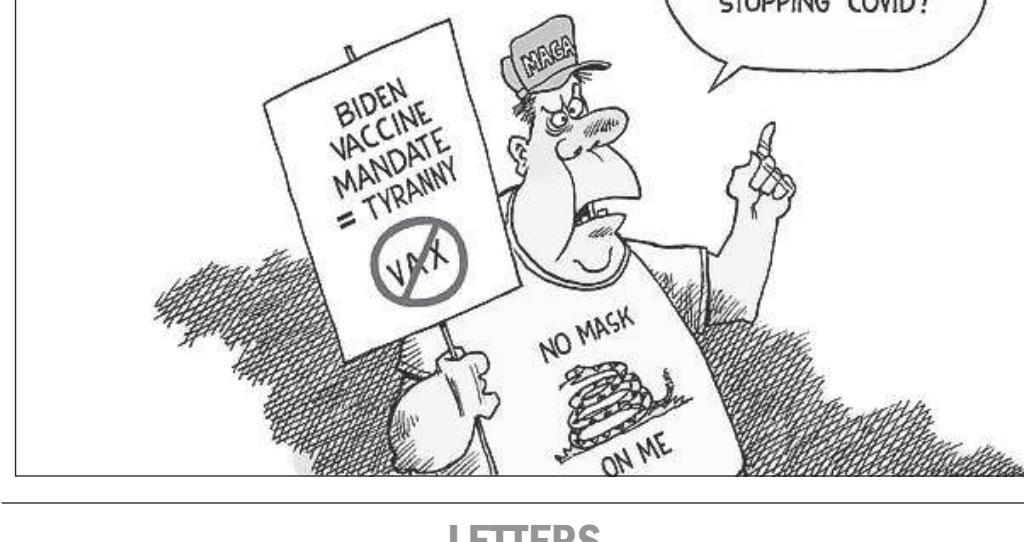
Each pod device is pre-charged and pre-filled. Once the vapor runs out, it cannot be recharged or refilled – standing apart from JUUL with its one-time use.

Each Puff Bar uses nicotine salts; a formula that allows for much higher levels and efficient delivery of nicotine with less irritation compared to earlier generations of e-cigarettes. Nicotine strength can be as high as 5 percent in Puff Bars, just like JUUL.

Many young people are not aware of their nicotine consumption when using e-cigarettes. Results from an April 2018 Truth Initiative study published in Tobacco Control show that nearly two-thirds – 63 percent – of JUUL users aged 15-24 were unaware that JUUL always contained nicotine.

Young people who vape are not only risking nicotine addiction – the effects of nicotine exposure could also be harming brain development, altering nerve cell functioning and changing brain chemistry.

Dan Gray
Director, Wabash County
Tobacco Free Coalition



LETTERS

Popularity continues to increase with youth use of disposable e-cigarettes

If anyone thought the new flavored e-cigarette regulations were going to solve the youth vaping epidemic, they haven't heard of Puff Bars. Puff Bars mimic the popular JUUL and its many copycat e-cigarette devices but are designed for one-time use. They come in many youth-appealing flavors, including Orange, Mango, Blueberry Ice, Banana Ice, Cool Mint, Watermelon, Peach Ice, Grape, Mango, Strawberry, Strawberry Banana, Passion Fruit, and Menthol, but are not subject to the new federal policy regulating flavored e-cigarettes. That's because they are disposable – one of the many exemptions and loopholes in the new policy, which only restricts flavors for closed-system e-liquid cartridges, like JUUL and its pods, and does not apply to refillable cartridges or disposable products. Tobacco companies have long marketed flavored products to appeal to youth. Puff Bars emphasize flavors with bright-colored packaging and use descriptive names. Flavors play a significant role in drawing youth and young adults to start smoking. In fact,

Lifestyles



Photo by Lynda Balslev for TasteFood

Cozy food alla Norma

Pasta alla Norma is a classic and timeless Italian dish, hailing from the Sicilian city of Catania. It features eggplant – lots of it – in a simple marinara-style tomato sauce. While the ingredients technically qualify it as a late summer dish, it can be prepared year-round, which is good news for us. For something so simple, the flavors are warm, rich and comforting – which provides a perfect balm, Italian-style, during the frenzied holidays.

For an authentic pasta alla Norma, the eggplant is fried until soft, golden and slightly caramelized, then tumbled with a short tubular pasta, a shower of sharp and salty ricotta salata cheese and fresh basil leaves. In this recipe, I have made a few minor adjustments.

First, I oven-roast the eggplant to reduce the amount of oil needed to coax them into squidgy goodness. Eggplants are essentially sponges and will soak up all the oil in which they cook. Roasting the eggplant reduces the required amount of oil a notch, while still providing a good shell-lack for meltingly soft and flavorful results. As for the sauce, in the height of tomato season, it's best to use the

pulp of fresh tomatoes. Out of season (and for convenience), I use canned crushed Italian plum tomatoes or passata. And, finally, for the traditional finish with a generous sprinkling of the aforementioned ricotta salata, I substitute Pecorino Romano cheese, another Italian sheep cheese that is also sharp and salty, since I almost always have it in my refrigerator.

And for those inquiring minds who would like to know who Norma is, the name is a reference to the Italian opera "Norma" by Vincenzo Bellini. Legend has it that this dish was created for the world premiere of the opera on the 26th of December in 1831, which affirms that even the Italians can enjoy this summery dish year-round.

Rigatoni alla Norma
Prep time: 30 minutes
Total time: 1 hour and 10 minutes
Yield: Serves 4 to 5

Extra-virgin olive oil
2 pounds eggplant, halved lengthwise, sliced 1/2-inch thick
Kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper
2 large garlic cloves, minced
1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
1 (28-ounce) can crushed Italian plum tomatoes or passata
1 pound rigatoni

1/4 cup torn fresh basil leaves
1/2 cup coarsely grated Pecorino Romano or ricotta salata cheese

Heat the oven to 400 degrees. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment. Spread 3 to 4 tablespoons oil on the parchment. Add the eggplant slices and turn to thoroughly coat. Season with salt and pepper.

Transfer to the oven and roast until the eggplant is golden brown and very soft, about 40 minutes, turning once or twice.

While the eggplant is roasting, heat 1 tablespoon oil in a large, deep skillet over medium heat. Add the garlic, crushed red pepper flakes and oregano and sauté until the garlic is soft and fragrant without coloring, 30 seconds to 1 minute. Stir in the tomatoes, 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/2 teaspoon black pepper and simmer for 10 minutes.

Bring a large pot of generously salted water to a boil. Add the pasta and cook for 1 minute less than al dente per package instructions. Scoop out 1/4 cup cooking water and drain the pasta.

Add the roasted eggplant and pasta to the sauce and stir to combine over medium-low heat for about 30 seconds. If too thick, stir in 1 to 2 tablespoons reserved cooking water. Stir in half of the basil.

Serve the pasta warm, sprinkled with the cheese and remaining basil.

By DEB BALZER

Mayo Clinic News Network (TNS)

The emergence of a new COVID-19 variant, omicron, has heightened safety protocols and plans to help people stay safe from illness as researchers and experts learn more about the newest strain of SARS-CoV-2. This includes plans to expand access to COVID-19 over-the-counter tests for people to use at home in the U.S.

"We have good evidence that the testing that we're using to detect patients who have COVID-19 is going to continue to be effective in individuals infected with the omicron variant," says Matthew Binnicker, Ph.D., director of Clinical Virology at Mayo Clinic.

There are two types of tests approved by the Food and Drug Administration to diagnose current COVID-19



A COVID-19 test center operates inside the Tom Bradley International Terminal at Los Angeles International Airport on Dec. 1 in Los Angeles.

infection: molecular tests (e.g., polymerase chain reaction [PCR]) and antigen tests. Both are done on a nasal swab specimen.

A polymerase chain reaction or PCR test is a test that looks for the virus' RNA in a

patient's sample. A sample is collected by inserting a swab into a person's nostril and taking cells from the back of the nose (nasopharyngeal swab). Some lab tests allow for patients to spit into a tube to get a saliva sample. PCR

tests are accurate when properly performed by a health care professional, but rapid tests can miss some cases.

Antigen tests detect certain proteins in the virus. Using a nasal swab, antigen tests can produce results in minutes. These tests are faster and less expensive than molecular tests, but there is an increased chance of false-negative results.

"At-home testing is, of course, becoming more common as more testing options for individuals at their home become available. The omicron variant should be detected by rapid antigen tests and other tests – at least that's what the current data are telling us," says Dr. Binnicker.

Self-testing kits, many of which are antigen tests, are not failproof and it is possible for a test to give a negative result in some people who have COVID-19 infection.

Yes, debt collectors can now contact you on social media

With pandemic-related relief either ending or exhausted, debt totals are creeping up for Americans.

Credit card balances jumped by \$17 billion to \$800 billion for the third

quarter of this year, according to a report from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York's Center for Microeconomic Data.

The rise in credit card debt is reversing the pandemic trend that saw consumers spending less and paying down their balances.

The financial anxiety is

particularly pronounced

for Generation Z, ages

13 to 24. A new survey

found that 37 percent of

these young adults said

their own or their family's

finances were a major

source of stress, according

to a recent survey by the

Associated Press-NORC

Center for Public Affairs

Research.

Next year could see more people in debt and being chased by debt collection companies that now have new ways to find debtors. Here's what you need to know about your rights.

Is it true that a debt collector can contact me via my social media account?

Yes, that request to connect on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram could very well be from a debt collection company.

New rules adopted by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), which took effect Nov. 30, lay out how and when debt collectors can contact you about a debt you may owe.

An update to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act allows debt collectors to track down folks on their social media accounts, in addition to using email and text messages.

If you are contacted on one of the social media platforms, the debt collector has to send you a private message and make it clear that they are attempting to collect a debt.

Messages must be sent at a "reasonable time," similar to the 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. limitation for phone calls, said Linda Sherry, director of national priorities for Consumer Action.

Can the debt collector post something about my debts online?

The rule change is supposed to protect your privacy. The debt collector can't post something that can be seen by the general public, your contacts, friends or followers. For example, the debt collector couldn't comment on your profile page indicating that you owe a debt.

What proof does a debt collector have to provide me that I owe the debt?

When a debt collector initially communicates with you, or shortly thereafter, the company is generally required to provide certain information about the debt, according to the CFPB.

This "debt collection validation notice" should include enough information to help you figure out if you owe the debt. Included in what they should send you is the following information, the CFPB says:

1. The name of the debt collector and mailing information.

2. Information about the creditor and any account number associated with the debt. It's possible you may not realize you owe money because the notice isn't coming from the original creditor. You should get enough details to help you recognize or verify

the debt is accurate. The notice should have a form that you can send back to dispute the debt or take other actions.

3. An itemization of the current amount of the debt, including interest, fees and payments you've made.

If I don't want to be contacted, is there a way to stop receiving messages?

Under the new rules, the debt collector must give you a "simple way" to opt out of receiving future communications through your social media account, according to the CFPB.

You have the right to tell debt collectors not to contact you by email, text message or any other means of communication, the CFPB points out.

However, this does not mean the debt goes away. The debt collector may still be able to pursue court action.

The CFPB has a sample letter you can use to request a stop to the communication. Go to consumerfinance.gov and search for "What should I do when a debt collector contacts me?"

A debt collector, with limited exceptions, cannot send an email to an email address the company knows is an employer-provided email address, a CFPB spokeswoman said.

How can I be sure that a message isn't from a scammer?

Here's where things can get tricky and how a scammer can trick you into sending them money or divulging personal information.

"Being able to contact people via social media accounts is very concerning to us," Sherry said. "A lot of spammers and scammers are using text messages, so people need to be very cautious."

Sherry recommends that you don't click on any links in an email, text message or respond to a direct message until you have independently verified the debt collector is legitimate.

How often can the debt collector call me?

Under the Debt Collection Rule, a debt collector contacting you on the telephone can't call more than seven times within a seven-day period per debt, or within seven days after speaking with you on the telephone. If you don't ask a company to stop communicating with you, the rule doesn't put a limit on the number of emails, text messages or contacts on social media that can be made, Sherry points out.

How soon can a debt collector send information about a debt to the credit bureaus?

To try to end an unscrupulous and illegal practice of "parking" debts on people's credit reports to pressure them into making payments, debt collectors must disclose debt details before they report any information to a credit bureau, Sherry said.

The rule bans the practice of reporting a debt to a consumer reporting agency without first informing the consumer of the debt's existence, the CFPB said. Often, people don't realize the fake or questionable collection action is on their credit report until they apply for a loan.

The new rule also prohibits debt collectors from suing (and threatening to sue) to collect a time-barred debt, the CFPB points out.

Even if the debt is yours, and the company can prove it, it doesn't give them the right to harass you. So, if you're having an issue with debt collection, submit an online complaint to the CFPB or call 855-411-2372.

Obituaries

Nelda Sue Love

March 19, 1946 - Dec. 9, 2021



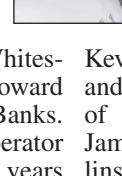
Nelda Sue Love, 75, of Wabash, Indiana, died at 6:00 am, Thursday, Dec. 9, 2021, at her home. She was born on March 19, 1946, in Petersburg, Indiana, to Rev. Harry and Violet (Linthicum) Taylor.

Nelda was a 1964 graduate of Paoli High School, received her Bachelors from Indiana State University, and her Masters degree from Ball State University, in Speech and Hearing Therapy. She married Marvin B. Love in French Lick, Indiana on July 23, 1966. She and Marvin moved to Wabash in 1968, and she was the Speech and Hearing Therapist in the Wabash City Schools. Nelda and Marv started Love Bug Floral together in 1974. She was a member of the Wabash First United Methodist Church, the Womans Clubhouse Association, and Psi Iota Sorority, where she was very active and held many offices. She also held many offices in the Indiana State Floral Association. Nelda enjoyed playing bridge, caring for her dogs, and loved her family, especially her granddaughter Violet. She was a very caring and thoughtful person.

She is survived by her husband, Marvin B. Love of Wabash, two daughters, Jennifer, com.

Barbara Ellen Stinson

July 29, 1952 - Dec. 6, 2021



Barbara Ellen Stinson, 69 of Wabash, passed away at 9:45am Monday Dec. 6, 2021 at the Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne. She was born July 29, 1952 in Whitesburg, KY to the late Howard and Jona Dollarhide Banks. Barbara was a press operator at General Tire for 20 years and co-owner of Stinson's Trading Post in Wabash. She was a lifetime member of the VFW and the Children's Foundation at Whitesburg, KY.

Her marriage was to John R. Stinson and he survives.

Jennifer Rebecca 'Jenny' Penrod

Jennifer Rebecca "Jenny" Penrod, 48, North Manchester, passed away on Dec. 6, 2021.

The loving memory of Jennifer Rebecca Penrod will be forever cherished by her mother, Ruth Anne (Strobel) Frieden and many aunts, uncles and cousins. She was preceded in death by her father, Michael K.

Janet Lambert

Graveside services and burial for Janet Lambert will be 10:30 am, Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2021, at Memorial Lawns Cemetery, 1100 Manchester Avenue, Wabash. Arrangements by Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash.

BABE

From page A1

service," said Till. "This event is for adults only. Children are not allowed to come to the store in the hopes of keeping their presents a surprise."

Till said one or two adults only per household would be welcome to shop due to COVID-19 restrictions and space.

"Families will be given a number at the door to know what order they may go shopping. So be sure to check in as soon as you arrive," said Till.

Till said the origins of the toy drive date back to when she was introduced to former Our Children Our Future director Pat Lynn.

After Lynn had retired from her role, the organization was handed over to the Youth Services Bureau of Wabash County, which had been located at the Old Wabash City Hall at 111 S. Wabash St. That organization is now defunct and the doors were locked several years ago after leases were placed on the property by the Indiana Department of Revenue.

When the building was opened up, the city put Lynn in charge of distributing all their assets to other non-profits, since they couldn't be sold due to their bylaws.

Till said when they toured the

PULSE

From page A1

"Christmas Carol" has a run time of 90 minutes including one 15-minute intermission. For more information, visit hoosiershakes.com.

WACT's schedules 'dinnertainment' auditions

The Wabash Area Community Theater (WACT) will put on another "dinnertainment" production around the Valentine's Day holiday. Under the direction of WACT veteran Angelina Funk, WACT will share "I Hate Shakespeare!" from Feb. 11 to 13, 2022 at the Charley Creek Inn, 111 W. Market St. This will include not only a show but also a chef-prepared meal. Rehearsals will start Monday through Thursday, with Fridays being possible on Jan. 17, 2022. Auditions will be at the WACTory from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11; and callbacks will be from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12. For more information, email agjung78@gmail.com. Tickets for this show will be on sale in January.

Manchester Symphony Orchestra announces 83rd season

The Manchester Symphony Orchestra under Conductor Debra Lynn heads into its 83rd season with these concerts in the works: Holiday Concert on Dec. 12, 2021, in Cordier features the Carol Symphony by Victor Hely-Hutchinson, Sleigh Ride by Frederick Delius, March Militaire by Franz Schubert and The Skater's Waltz by Émile Waldteufel. Trailblazers is March 13, 2022, at the Honeywell Center in Wabash, Indiana. It celebrates African-American composer Florence Price and her Symphony No. 1 in E minor. The concert will also feature high school and college winners of the orchestra's concerto competition. Spaces on May 15, 2022, in Cordier is the final concert of the season, showcasing the world premiere of Lynn's five-movement concerto titled Spaces, written specifically for guest artist Derek Reeves. He is the principal violist of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic. All concerts are at 3 p.m. on Sundays. Masks and social distancing are required.

A celebration of Jenny's life will be held at a later date.

The family has entrusted McKee Mortuary with final arrangements.

A celebration of Barbara's life will be held at a later date.

McKee Mortuary with final arrangements.

McKee Mortuary with final arrangements.</p



Church Directory

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sweetwater Assembly of God, 2551 SR 114 E, North Manchester. (260) 982-6179. Sunday worship 9am & 10:45am. Sunday evening outreach groups & youth ministry 5-7pm. Wednesday 6:30pm adult/teen bible study, 6:30pm Kidz Zone (K thru 6th grade). All worship services streaming online and on our Facebook page.

BAPTIST

Southside Free Will Baptist, 360 Columbus Street. Pastor Tim Webb. Sunday School 10am. Worship Service 11am. Sunday Evening 6pm. Wednesday Evening 6pm. Sunday worship services streaming online

Wabash Free Will Baptist Church, 1056 Erie Street. Wednesday evening prayer meeting 6pm. Sunday School 10am, Church 11am; evening service 6pm.

CATHOLIC

St. Bernard Catholic Church, corner of Cass & Sinclair. Father Levi Nkwocha. Masses: Saturday 5:30 p.m. and Sunday 9:30 a.m.; Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 5:30 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday at 8:15 a.m.

St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Main Street in Lagro Mass Time: 11 a.m. First Sunday of the month throughout the year except January and February. Let us worship together.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Christian Heritage Church, 2776 River Road. (260) 569-7710. Pastor Tim Prater. Sunday 8:30am. Radio Ministry 95.9 WKUZ. Sunday School 9:30am. Morning Service 10:30am. Sunday evening 6pm. Wednesday evening 6pm. Online services on Sunday at 10:30 am and Wednesday 6:00 pm

LaFontaine Christian Church, 202 Bruner Pike, LaFontaine

Minister Brad Wright. (765) 981-2101. Worship 9am & 10:30am, Nursery & Jr. Church available. Online Services available on our website

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church of Christ, Wabash (corner of N Wabash Street and US 24). Evangelist Josh Fennell (260) 563-8234. Sunday School 9am. Morning Worship 10am. Evening Worship 6:30pm. Wednesday Service 7pm. Wednesday Kid's Jam 7pm.

CHURCH OF GOD

First Church of God, 525 N. Miami Street. Pastor Robert Rensberger. (260) 563-5346. Sunday School at 9:15am, for all ages. Continental breakfast at 10am. Sunday Morning Worship is at 10:30am. Nursery care is available during worship service. Stair lift available.

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Wabash Church of the Brethren, 645 Bond Street (off Falls Avenue). Pastor Doug Veal. (260) 563-5291. Wherever you are on life's journey, come join us as we continue the work of Jesus... Peacefully, Simply, Together. Sunday School 9:30am. Worship 10:30am. Children's church and nursery available during worship. Online Service through website or conference call.

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Wabash Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 110 W. Hill St., Wabash; Stephen Eberhard, Minister; phone: 260-563-4179; website: www.wabashchristian.org. Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Nursery provided. Find us on YouTube and Facebook.

FRIENDS CHURCH

Wabash Friends Church, 3563 S State Rd 13. (260) 563-8452. Lead Pastor, Brandon Eaton. Join us for in-person worship at 8:30AM or 10:45AM, or via live-stream on Facebook at 10:45AM. Children's programming available infants - 6th grade. Sunday school for all ages at 9:45AM. Youth (7th-12th) Sunday evenings at 6:30PM.

INDEPENDENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bachelor Creek Church of Christ, 4 miles north of Wabash on St. Rd. 15; phone 260-563-4109; website: bachelorcreek.com; Worship Minister - Michael Eaton, Student Minister - David Diener, Children's Minister - Tyler Leland, Middle School & Small Groups Minister - Nate Plyler, Next Steps & Outreach Minister - Ryan Keim, Women's Director- Taylor McFarland, Early Childhood Director - Janet Legesse. Worship 9:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

LUTHERAN

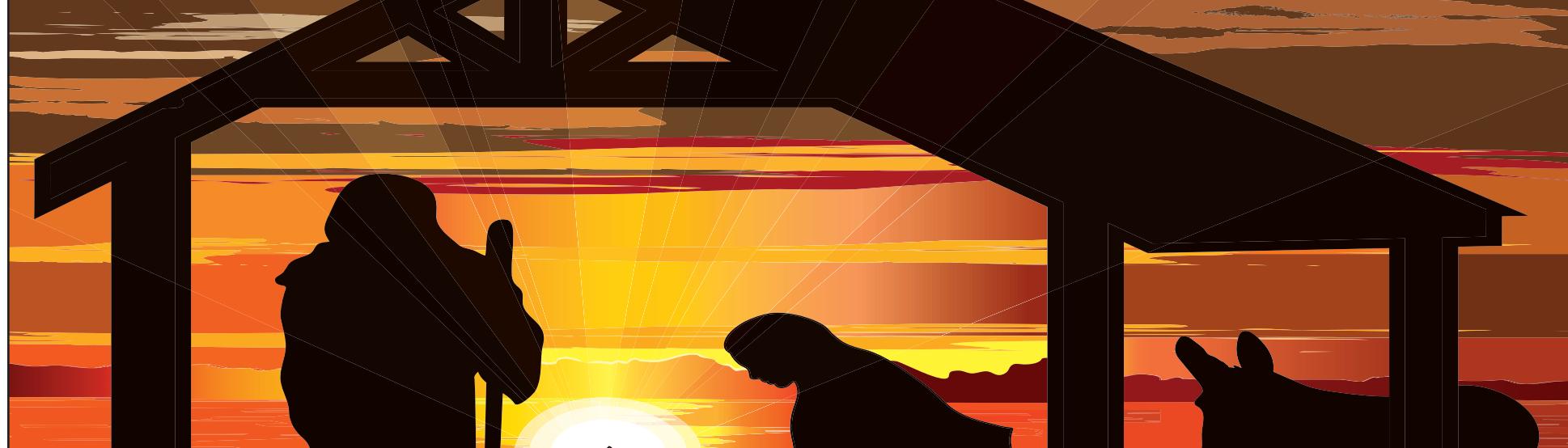
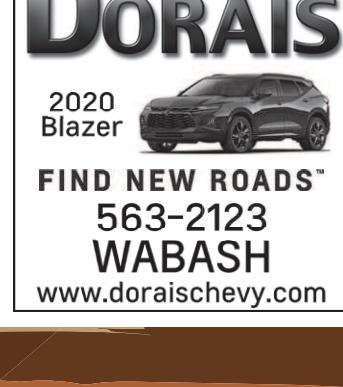
Living Faith Lutheran Church (NALC), 242 S. Huntington St., Wabash, IN. Worship begins each Sunday morning at 10:10 a.m. with Bible study classes for all ages at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join us for worship. Worship Services live streamed on our website. www.LivingFaithWabash.org

Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA), 1500 S Wabash Street. Pastor Dr. Kent Young. (260) 563-6626. We worship our Lord each Sunday at 9:30am with Gospel-based message and Holy Communion. There is a time of fellowship and refreshments immediately following the service. We are handicap accessible and everyone is welcome at Trinity! tlcwabash@gmail.com.

UNITED METHODIST

North Manchester United Methodist Church, 306 E Second Street, North Manchester. Pastor Steve Bahrt. (260) 982-7537. Worship Service 8:15am & 10:30am. Coffee Fellowship 9am. Sunday School 9:30am.

Richvalley United Methodist Church, 290 N Jefferson. (260) 563-1033. Pastor Jack Suits. Worship service begins at 9:30am. Nursery available. Sunday School begins at 10:45am for all age.



THE HIGHEST HEIGHTS



Climbing a mountain takes skill, physical fitness, and determination. Harsh weather, lack of oxygen, and exhaustion may face the climber who dares to face the silent majesty of extreme heights. Like a mountain climb, a journey in faith has its struggles; God's ways are not always easy to comprehend. Obstacles thrown in our path may make us falter and fail, but He gives us new strength with every new difficulty. Seek His strength and refuge at your house of worship this week.

Daily Devotional Reading

Isaiah 7:1-25 Isaiah 8:21-9:7 Isaiah 44:1-28 Isaiah 45:1-25 Isaiah 48:1-22 Isaiah 62:1-12 Isaiah 65:17-25

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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A slow start didn't hinder Wabash's varsity basketball team on Wednesday evening when the Apaches used a 24 point third quarter to clinch their second win of the season over Adams Central by a score of 54-46.

Three-point barrage spurs Wabash past Adams Central

Apaches have back-to-back games this weekend against Maconaquah and Norwell

By CLAY MAXFIELD
Wabash Plain Dealer Freelance Reporter

A slow start didn't hinder Wabash's varsity basketball team on Wednesday evening when the Apaches used a 24 point third quarter to clinch their second win of the season over Adams Central by a score of 54-46.

Wabash trailed 31-18 at halftime before the flood gates opened offensively for the Apaches as they drilled eight three-pointers in the third quarter.

Apaches head coach, Paul Wright chalked up his team's comeback in the second half to a more focused approach on the defensive end of the floor.

"We just came out with a better effort," Wright said. "Better effort than we did in the first quarter and the first half. That's basically what it was. We played as a team in the second half and that's how we clinched the win."

While Adams Central took a four-point lead after the first quarter, Kolton Wilson jumped to start the game followed by a three from the top of the key by Izaak Wright got the team's offense going.

Grant Ford led Wabash with 23 points while shooting 50 percent from the field including seven of 13 from behind the arc. Trevor Daughtry and Izaak Wright chipped in with 10 and nine points each.

Forcing the ball in the high post in the second half proved to be one of the most critical adjustments that were made during halftime by Wright and his coaching staff.

"We were not getting enough high post touches. We stressed getting the ball in the high post and we did better job of that and saw that it led to kick-outs and three-pointers. We have a good shooting team but we were not getting enough high post touches and I thought we did a much better job," Wright said.

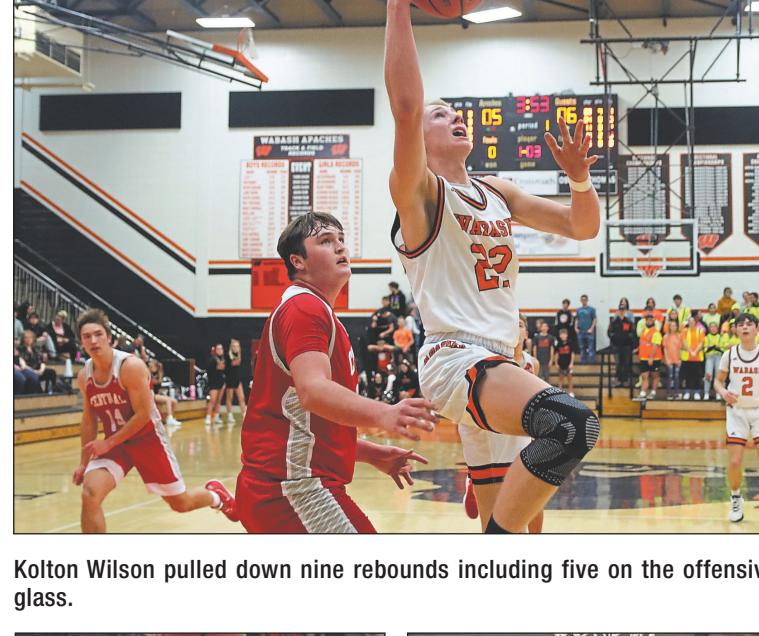
The Apaches came out in the second half with two buckets converted from long distance by Trevor Daughtry and Kolton Wilson before Grant Ford hit the next five Apache three-pointers including a 12 to zero run spurred all on his midway through.

Defensively, Wabash held Adams Central to just three points in the third quarter before splitting even 12 for 12 in the fourth, winning in a second-half comeback by eight.

Kolton Wilson pulled down nine rebounds including five on the offensive glass while Izaak Wright finished the night with six boards and seven assists.

Wabash, who will now turn their focus to back-to-back games this weekend against Maconaquah (0-1) and Norwell (2-1), will look to see if they can ride the trend of offensive efficiency that was displayed on Wednesday evening.

"We'll find out Friday," Wright said.



Kolton Wilson pulled down nine rebounds including five on the offensive glass.



Grant Ford led Wabash with 23 points while shooting 50 percent from the field including seven of 13 from behind the arc.



Trevor Daughtry had 10 points.



Izaak Wright chipped in nine points.

"We've grown since Oak Hill. We learned from Delta. I thought for the most part we were pretty physical tonight and that's how we gotta play because we're not very tall. So I'm hoping we'll

find out Friday how much we learned because we play another good team on Friday."

Clay Maxfield, Wabash Plain Dealer freelance reporter, may be reached by email at sports@wabashplaindealer.com.

WABASH JV BOYS DEFEATED BY ADAMS CENTRAL 42-36 ON WEDNESDAY



Photo by Greg Dannacher / Plain Dealer
Wabash Apache players surround their Adams Central Jets opponent with a smothering defense during first half junior varsity action Wednesday at Coolman Arena.

WABASH BOYS VARSITY WRESTLING FALLS TO LEWIS CASS 60-7 ON TUESDAY

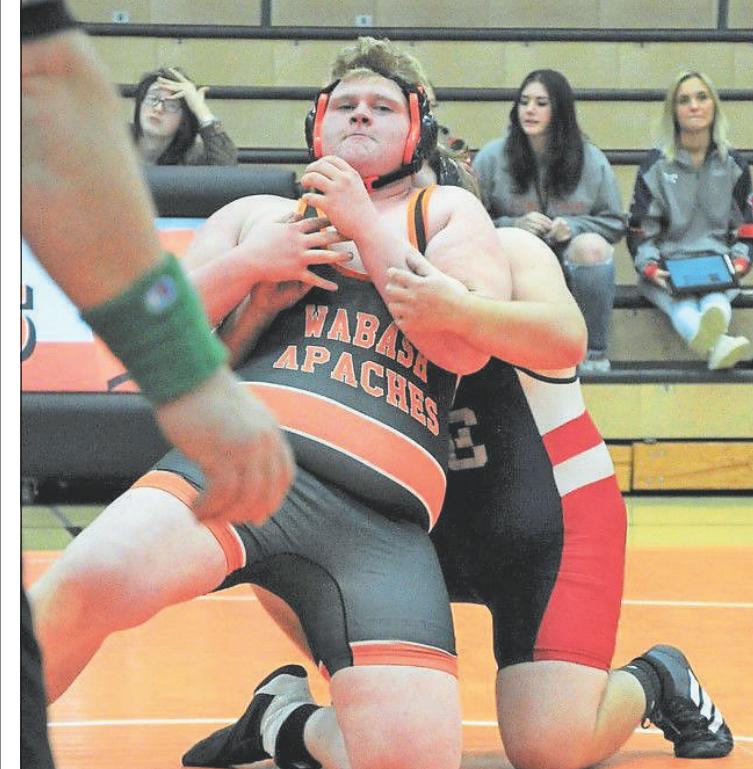


Photo by Greg Dannacher / Plain Dealer
Apache heavyweight Caden Carmichael escapes the hold of his Lewis Cass opponent in the 285 pound weight class on Tuesday evening at Coolman Gymnasium.

Spartans wrestling gain experience after invitationals

By DILLON BENDER

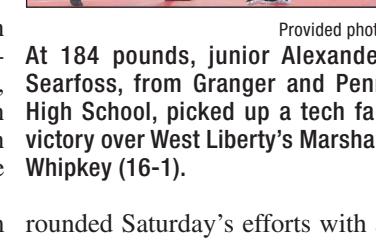
The Manchester University wrestling squad was in action on Saturday afternoon at the highly competitive Little State Invitational hosted by Wabash College.

The Spartans continued to gain experience on the season. Fifth-year senior Josh Stephenson, from Yorktown, won by fall in his opening bout of the afternoon against Thomas More's Bryce Zumwalt.

First-year Gabe Phillips, from Centerville, picked up a win on Saturday in the 157-pound weight class. Phillips earned a pin over Wabash's Phenix Carney.

At 184 pounds, junior Alexander Searfoss, from Granger and Penn High School, picked up a tech fall victory over West Liberty's Marshall Whipkey (16-1).

rounded Saturday's efforts with a pin in his opening bout over Cornerstone's Marion Karkonen.



Provided photo

At 184 pounds, junior Alexander Searfoss, from Granger and Penn High School, picked up a tech fall victory over West Liberty's Marshall Whipkey (16-1).

rounded Saturday's efforts with a pin in his opening bout over Cornerstone's Marion Karkonen.

Manchester earned 11 team points.

The Spartans will be back in action Saturday, Dec. 11 when they travel to Naperville, Illinois for the North Central Invitational.

Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.

MANCHESTER VARSITY BOYS WRESTLING

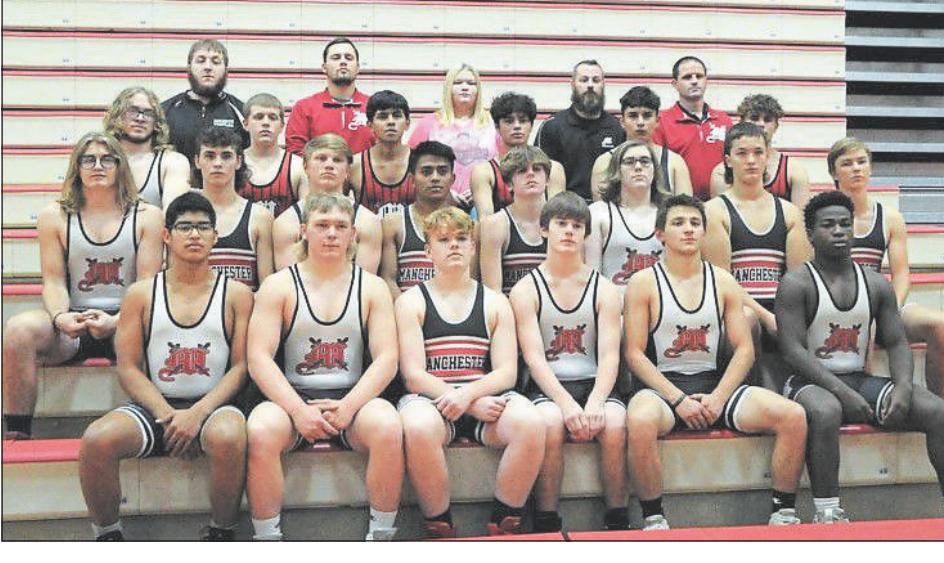


Photo by Greg Dannacher / Plain Dealer

Front row (left to right): Jose Cortes, Zachary France, Ryan Tully, Jordan Owens, Dylan Stroud and Jordan Ayres.
 Second row (left to right): Preston Duffy, Isaiah Burlingame, Peyton Neal, Jonadan Muai, Tallan Selleck, Tyler Acosta, Nicholas Cong and Sebastian Rolen.
 Third row (left to right): Trevor Dill, Jeffery Tendzieglosk, Jose Hernandes, Eric Diaz, Steven Guerrero and Kobe Flock.
 Fourth row (left to right): Nick Joyner, Austin Hiatt, Nicole Cave, Rex Moore and Byron Sweet.

MANCHESTER VARSITY GIRLS WRESTLING



Photo by Greg Dannacher / Plain Dealer

Front row (left to right): Lily Cripe, Marah Eades and Jacelyn Molina.
 Back row (left to right): Emma Evans, Coach Joseph Lamplod, Nicole Cave and Madison Parson.

MANCHESTER JV GIRLS BASKETBALL

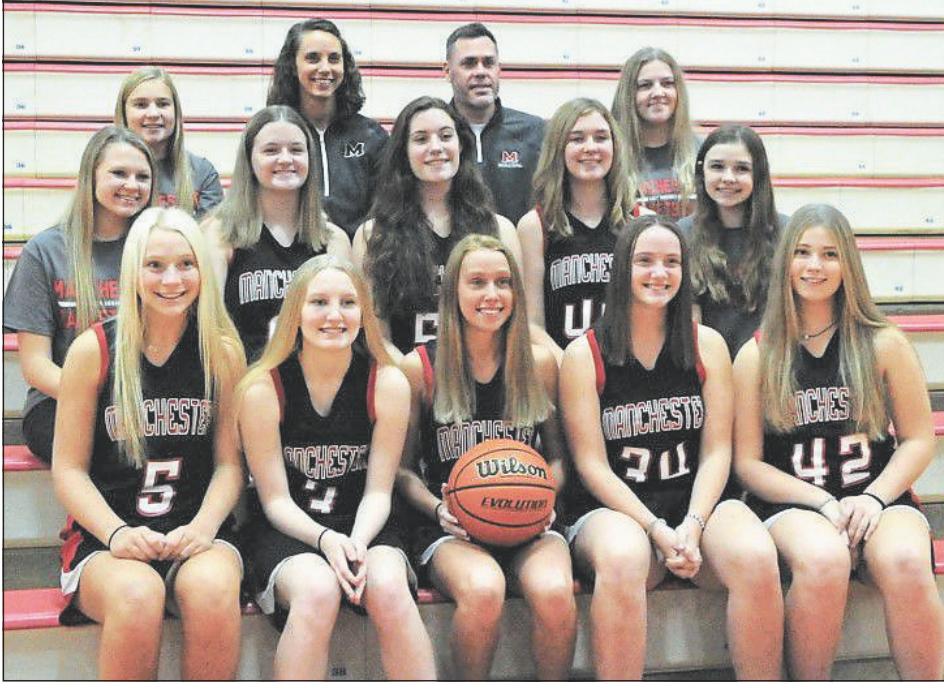


Photo by Greg Dannacher / Plain Dealer

Front row (left to right): Molly Schannep, Maddy Miller, Trinity Atkins, Grace Smith and Karsyn Kamphaes.
 Second row (left to right): Hadley Schannep, McKelvey Espeset, Leyna Borgmann, Kimberly Schroll and Savannah Evans.
 Third row (left to right): London Spangle, Allie Kauffman, Bradly Buzzard and Gabby Simmers.

MANCHESTER JV BOYS BASKETBALL



Photo by Greg Dannacher / Plain Dealer

Front row (left to right): Isaac Barrett, Logan Eastgate, Wyatt Prater and Tallon Torpy.
 Second row (left to right): Sammie Lambert, Kaleb Kline, Lauren Barrett, Carter Wagoner and Tanner Cooley.
 Third row (left to right): Asia Snyder, Darrell Danford, Mark Rickerd and Aliyah Nichols.

MANCHESTER VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL



Photo by Greg Dannacher / Plain Dealer

Front row (left to right): Brookelynn Buzzard, Makency Meyer, Keilan Creager, Ainsley West and Trinity Akins.
 Second row (left to right): Gabby Simmers, Gracie Lauer, Ella Clifford, Aiala Atienza, Olivia Neal and Hadley Schannep.
 Third row (left to right): Savannah Evans, Allie Kauffman, Bradley Buzzard and London Spangle.

MANCHESTER VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL

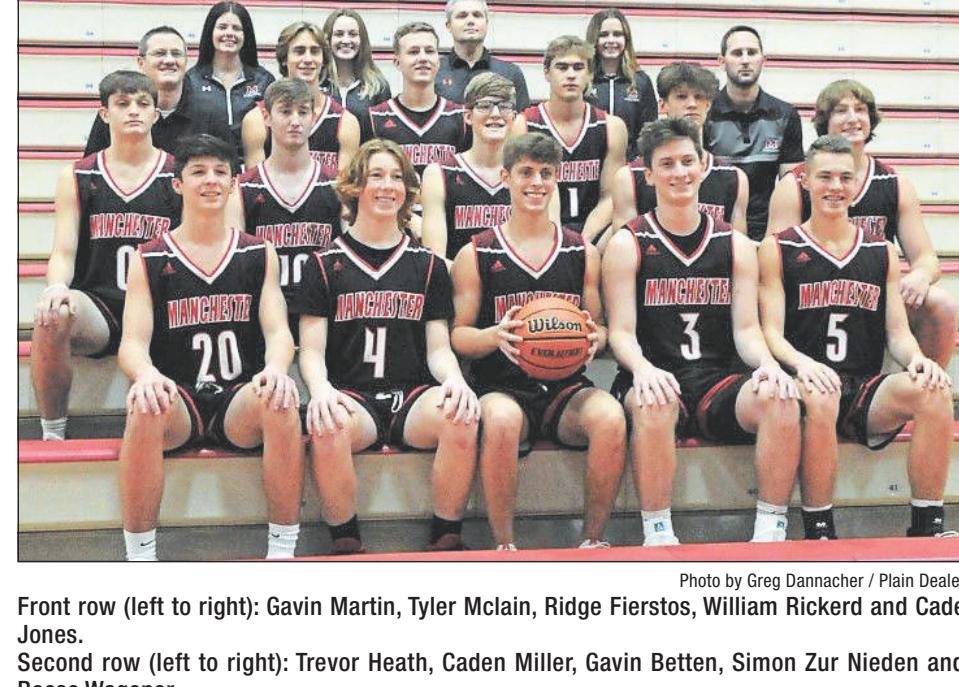


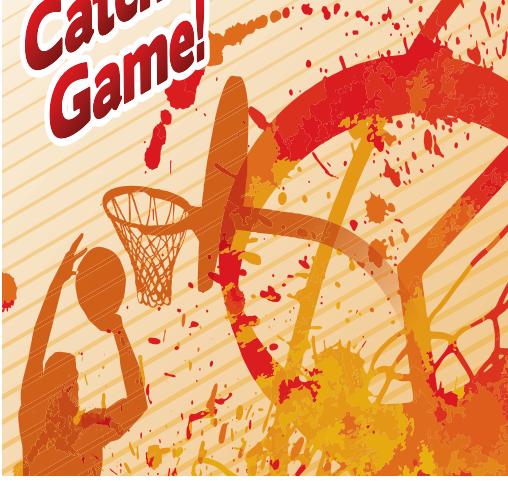
Photo by Greg Dannacher / Plain Dealer

Front row (left to right): Gavin Martin, Tyler McLain, Ridge Fierstos, William Rickerd and Cade Jones.
 Second row (left to right): Trevor Heath, Caden Miller, Gavin Betten, Simon Zur Nieden and Reese Wagoner.
 Third row (left to right): Mark Rickerd, Liam York, Ethan Espeset, Owen Kruschwitz and Eli Henson.
 Fourth row (left to right): Asia Snyder, Lauren Barrett, Darrell Danford and Aliyah Nichols.

Good luck to all teams!

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WABASH SWIM TEAM

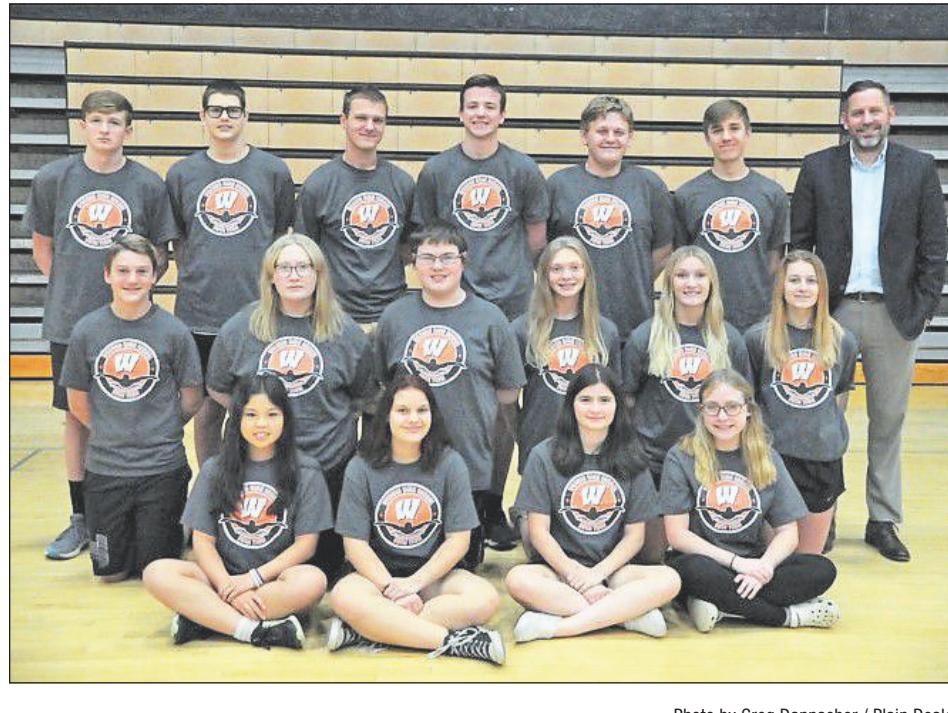


Photo by Greg Dannacher / Plain Dealer
Front Row (left to right): Nonoka Higuera, Mady Coffey, Abigail Hipskind and Kayla Brown.
Middle Row (left to right): Ashton Coffman, Alisha Hyslop, Chaz Hams, Natalie Adams, Abigail Boggs and Madison Inman.
Back Row (left to right): Chase Howard, Levi Fairchild, Dawn Coffman, Seth Blossom, Jack Jacoby, Nick Perkins and Head Coach Joshua Blossom.

WABASH JV GIRLS BASKETBALL



Photo by Greg Dannacher / Plain Dealer
Front Row (left to right): Talia Carrillo, Mgr. Coltny Sellers, Mgr. Ashtyn Shemwell, Shae Day and Emma Weaver.
Middle Row (left to right): Gretta France, Kiana Jones, Ella Hartley, Kaitlynn Honeycutt, Olivia Braun, Kenley McWhirt, Mar Perez and Aubrey Till.
Back Row (left to right): Janika Stumbo, Elena Pena, Coach Joey Till, Cal Stone, Coach Brittany Cooley, Samantha Walter and Isabella Vail.

WABASH VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL



Photo by Greg Dannacher / Plain Dealer
Front Row (left to right): Mgr. Ashtyn Shemwell, Rylee Yoakum, Elizabeth Mattern, Hannah Layne, Ashley Province and Coltny Sellers.
Back Row (left to right): Coach Joey Till, Coach Cal Stone, Brooklynn Westendorf, Linda Cordes, Jade Stumbo, Kasey Long, Kierra Wilson, Coach Brittany Cooley and Head Coach Matt Stone.

WABASH WRESTLING



Photo by Greg Dannacher / Plain Dealer
Front Row (left to right): Austin Baggett, Avry Dugan, Kameron Garriott, Jared Brooks, Olivia Harden, Isaiah Cavins, Cole VanCamp and Jace Bullins.
Middle Row (left to right): Matthew Anderson, Paloma Shull, Brayden Sickafus, Gavin Palmer, Michael Berry, Caden Carmichael and Elijah Brown.
Back Row (left to right): Coach Tyler Niccum, Coach Matt Zickafoose, Coach Jim Olinger, Coach Skyler Hall, Mgr. Tala Lynn and Coach Randy Kirby.

WABASH JV BOYS BASKETBALL



Photo by Greg Dannacher / Plain Dealer
Front Row (left to right): Braydon French, Jose Robles Ruiz, Tyson Carpenter, Keatan Wallace and Brad Tindugan.
Back Row (left to right): Coach Paul Wright, Logan Cantrell, Brayten Eis, Mgr. Kiara Carmichael and Coach Jake Stevens.

WABASH VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL



Photo by Greg Dannacher / Plain Dealer
Front Row (left to right): Trevor Daughtry, Colten Learned, Mgr. Kiara Carmichael, Kaden Vogel and Jae'den Winstead.
Middle Row (left to right): Kolton Wilson, Andrew Dinkins, Grant Ford, Izaak Wright, Antonio Grant and Ethan Kocher.
Back Row (left to right): Head Coach Paul Wright, Dave Ford, Alexander Dinkins, Collin Price and Coach Jake Stevens.

Good Luck Teams!

WABASH FIRE DEPARTMENT

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How to submit news tips

People can submit news to news@wabashplaindealer.com. The newsroom can be reached by calling 260-563-2131 and pressing the number corresponding to "newsroom." Our address is 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.



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MANCHESTER VARSITY SWIM TEAM



Photo by Greg Dannacher

Front row (left to right): Nelle Biehler, Julie Moren and Hannah Eberly. Second row (left to right): Robin Gibins, Caden Marcum, Paulie Martin, Jonathan Eberly, Adia Selleck and Caleb Smith. Top row (left to right): Kaesyn Resler, Josie Briner, Evan Fox, Wynter Harris, Noelle Walt, Sophie Anglin, Gracie Dale, Kenneth Martin and head coach Walter Bennett.

Long wait for bye week finally ends for Colts, Taylor

By MICHAEL MAROT

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Jonathan Taylor already feels as if he has played a full season.

The Indianapolis Colts running back has started 13 games, matching his rookie total. He has nine more touches than last year and his league-leading 18 touchdowns top his final numbers from 2020 and two of his three college seasons.

Naturally, Taylor needs a break. So he'll spend this bye week relaxing, recharging and re-committing himself to finishing strong.

"A late bye week, it's kind of a blessing and a curse," he said after rushing for 143 yards and two more TDs in last Sunday's 31-0 victory at Houston. "If you can make it to the late bye week feeling OK, then you've got an extra week to rest up and then you can hit that home stretch."

The 22-year-old Taylor insists he feels fine despite the hefty workload for 13 consecutive weeks.

Yet there's no indication the former Wisconsin star is slowing.

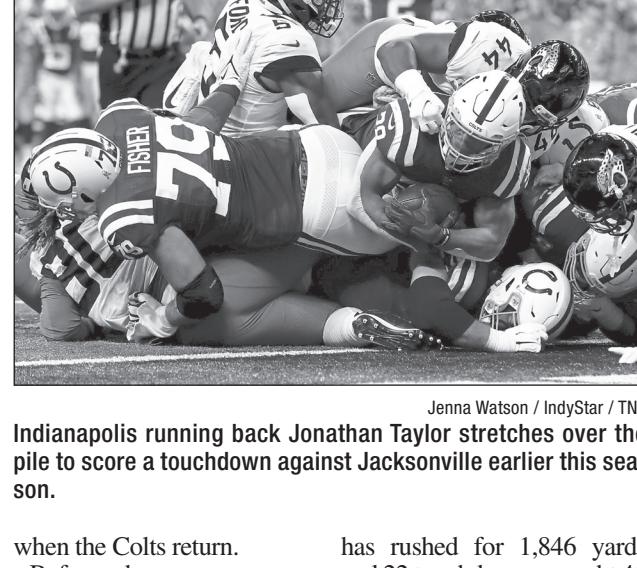
Last week, Taylor tied his career high with 32 carries. He enters Week 14 as the NFL's only 1,000-yard rusher, holding a 370-yard lead over Cincinnati running back Joe Mixon in the chase for a rushing title. He has even recorded 100 yards from scrimmage and a rushing TD in nine of Indy's last 10 games.

And just days after becoming the first Colts player to earn back-to-back AFC offensive player of the month awards, he opened December by posting Week 13 league highs in yards rushing and TD runs.

Now, finally, Taylor and his teammates will get some well-deserved rest.

"I think we'll all enjoy it quite a bit," quarterback Carson Wentz said. "Thirteen straight weeks without a break is a long time, so I think our bodies and our minds will definitely appreciate a little time off and a little time to spend with the family. We'll be ready to go once we come back."

Taylor will rely on his unique workout routine to make sure he's running on all cylinders



Jenna Watson / IndyStar / TNS

Indianapolis running back Jonathan Taylor stretches over the pile to score a touchdown against Jacksonville earlier this season.

when the Colts return.

Before he was a second-round draft pick in 2020, Taylor improved his speed by competing in track. He developed a breathing technique to stay focused and did yoga twice a week to help with his flexibility while shortening his recovery time between games.

It's a combination Taylor believes has helped him stay healthy.

"Just getting a lot of body work and getting your mind off of football until the last two days when you kind of reset and start getting back into that mode," Taylor said when asked about his bye week plans. "But kind of completely unplug so you can refresh and be ready to go."

The critics never expected Taylor's career to take off like a shooting star. Instead, they pointed to Taylor's 15 lost fumbles in college, a lack of experience in the passing game and the 926 carries he logged in three seasons with the Badgers as warning signs.

Colts general manager Chris Ballard saw something else — and he wasn't alone.

"He is great in the screen game, but he can go out and run routes," said Tampa Bay coach Bruce Arians, who told ESPN.com he considered taking Taylor with the 13th overall pick. "He had a lot of David Johnson in him when we worked him out. He is a tremendous athlete. He is dangerous anywhere in space."

Taylor is proving it on a weekly basis, too.

Over the past 17 games, he

has rushed for 1,846 yards and 22 touchdowns, caught 45 passes for 375 yards and three more scores while losing just three fumbles in 545 career touches.

He's on pace to become one of the youngest players in league history with 2,200 yards from scrimmage in a single season. And if he averages 163.0 yards per game when he returns from the bye, Taylor would be the youngest 2,000-yard rusher in NFL history.

But it's not those numbers that matter to Taylor.

"You try to find a crack that he really thinks he is the reason (for our success)," Reich said. "But everything is about the team and that's very, very special about him."

An extra week of rest in December could help Taylor and the Colts, too.

Indy is one of nine AFC teams with six or seven wins, vying for the final three playoff spots. None of Indy's final four opponents — New England, Arizona, Las Vegas or Jacksonville — are ranked among the top 15 run defenses.

And with winter weather coming and one of the league's top offensive lines paving the way, the Colts are likely to ride a recharged Taylor as far as he carries them.

"The bye week is going to be love," Taylor said. "How many games is this? 13? That's like a whole college season plus the bowl game. So, the bye week will be definitely, definitely be love."

Unser led over half the laps in three of his Indy 500 victories, and

500 winner, posted on social media. "He was a Great man and even a Greater Father. Rest In Peace Dad!"

Unser was the third member of one of America's most famed racing families to die in 2021. His oldest brother, three-time Indy 500 winner Bobby Unser, died in May, and Bobby Unser Jr. passed six weeks after his father.

Known as "Big Al" once his own son made a name for himself in racing, Unser is part of an elite club of four-time winners of "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing." Unser won the

Indy 500 in 1970, 1971, 1978 and 1987, and is the only driver in history to have both a sibling and a child also win one of the biggest races in the world.

His final victory at age 47 made him the oldest winner in Indy 500 history. He dominated in his first Indy win in 1970 by starting from the pole and leading all but 10 of the 200 laps. Unser beat runner-up Mark Donohue by 32 seconds that year.

Unser led over half the laps in

NFL					
AMERICAN CONFERENCE					
East					
New England	9	4	0	.692	350 200
Buffalo	7	5	0	.583	336 196
Miami	6	7	0	.462	254 288
N.Y. Jets	3	9	0	.250	217 367
South					
Tennessee	8	4	0	.667	304 290
Indianapolis	7	6	0	.538	371 283
Houston	2	10	0	.167	164 323
Jacksonville	2	10	0	.167	180 320
North					
Baltimore	8	4	0	.667	282 260
Cincinnati	7	5	0	.583	331 267
Cleveland	6	6	0	.500	254 267
Pittsburgh	6	6	1	.500	272 322
West					
Kansas City	8	4	0	.667	303 259
L.A. Chargers	7	5	0	.583	314 315
Denver	6	6	0	.500	237 218
Las Vegas	6	6	0	.500	274 312
NATIONAL CONFERENCE					
East					
Dallas	8	4	0	.667	353 267
Washington	6	6	0	.500	246 297
Phila.	6	7	0	.462	337 291
N.Y. Giants	4	8	0	.333	211 273
South					
Green Bay	9	3	0	.750	377 270
Minnesota	6	7	0	.462	344 333
Chicago	4	8	0	.333	201 287
Detroit	1	10	1	.125	203 316
West					
Arizona	10	2	0	.833	343 224
L.A. Rams	8	4	0	.667	336 270
San Francisco	6	6	0	.500	303 278
Seattle	4	8	0	.333	239 249

NFL					
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N.Y. Giants	4	8	0	.333	211 273
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Minnesota	6	7	0	.462	344 333
Chicago	4	8	0	.333	201 287
Detroit	1	10	1	.125	203 316
West					
Arizona	10	2	0	.833	343 224
L.A. Rams	8	4	0	.667	336 270
San Francisco	6	6	0	.500	303 278
Seattle	4	8	0	.333	239 249

NFL					
ATLANTIC CONFERENCE					
Atlantic Division					

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VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON CHURCH SERVICES

Asbury Country Church

At the Sunday, Dec. 12 service at Asbury Country Church, 1998 E. 250 South, the Sunday school will be at 9:30 a.m. and the worship service at 10:30 a.m. The worship and music leader will be Amy Bullick and the piano will be Cathy Staggs. The morning message by Pastor Mike Bullick will be "Waiting and Watching and Wanting."

Bachelor Creek Church of Christ

Online services are available by visiting www.bachelorcreek.com.

Christ United Methodist Church

Worship service will also be live-streamed on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ChristUMCWabash.

Christian Heritage Church

Streaming services online and broadcast on 95.9 FM.

College Corner Brethren Church

College Corner Brethren Church is now holding in-person services at 10:15 a.m. Sundays at 8996 S. 500 West, with Pastor Solomon David. The sermons are still on YouTube and Facebook.

Common Ground Prayer House

The Common Ground Prayer House will be open to the public from 8 to 10 a.m. Mondays, except holidays, at 78 W. Hill St. For more information, call Jennifer Mahan at 260-571-8063, Shirley Neale at 260-591-0047 or Debbie Sweet at 260-571-6072.

Dora Christian Church

At the Sunday, Dec. 12

service at Dora Christian Church, 2325 S. Salamonie Dam Road, Lagro, the minister will be Mark Wisniewski, the song leader will be Olman Sanchez, the pianist will be Sherry Brock and the organist will be Kristy Good. We have two in-person Sunday morning services, one at 8:15 a.m. and one at 10:30 a.m., with Sunday School classes for all ages from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. The message for both services will be "Glory That Shines" from Luke 2:8-14. The Communion Table will be served by Brad Frieden and Scott Hendry. Children's Church for the 10:30 a.m. service will be attended by Holli Good and Brooke Swope. A recorded version of the sermon will also be available for viewing on the Dora Christian Church Facebook group by the morning of Sunday, Dec. 12.

LaFontaine Christian Church

The LaFontaine Christian Church pre-records the sermon which is then available for all to view at www.lafontainechristian.com under the sermons tab, stated Pastor Brad Wright.

LaFontaine United Methodist Church

Pastor Susan Shambaugh says that her LaFontaine United Methodist Church is showing replay videos on their Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/LaFontaine-United-Methodist-Church>. In-person services start at 9:30 a.m. Sundays.

Lincolnville United Methodist Church

Lincolnville United Methodist, 5848 E. 500 South, is going back to one worship service. The wor-

ship service is at 10 a.m., and Sunday school is at 9 a.m. We started celebrating the Advent season Sunday, Nov. 28. The candle of hope was lit. At 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, the cantata "I'll be Home for Christmas - a ready to Christmas" created by Sue C. Smith and Russell Mauldin - will be performed by the choir. On Friday, Dec. 24, a Christmas Eve service will be held at 7 p.m. Holy Communion will be received. Come worship with us celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. For more information, email pastorjohn1954@gmail.com or call 260-563-1406.

Living Faith Lutheran Church

Welcome to our in-person worship service at 10:10 a.m. Sundays at Living Faith Lutheran Church, 242 S. Huntington St. Bible study and Sunday school are at 9 a.m. for all ages.

The sanctuary is arranged for social distancing. Masks are encouraged and available. Online services are at 10:10 a.m., with pre-service music at 10 a.m. For virtual services and more information, visit www.livingfaithwabash.org.

Manchester Church of the Brethren

Pastor Kurt Borgmann from the Manchester Church of the Brethren stated they will hold a live-stream service at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday by visiting www.manchestercob.net. Scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on the black button that says, "Manchester CoB YouTube Channel." After the service is finished, one may access a video copy of the live stream in the same way. Another way to

access the live stream or posted video: go to YouTube, search "Manchester Church of the Brethren," and click on the circle profile.

North Manchester Congregational Christian Church

Pastor Sebrena Cline stated live-streaming begins on their Facebook page at 10 a.m. Sundays for the North Manchester Congregational Christian Church, and lasts 30 to 40 minutes.

North Manchester Missionary Church

The North Manchester Missionary Church is streaming live on their Facebook page at 10 a.m. Sunday. The video is then placed on their webpage, which can be viewed by visiting [NMMC1.com](http://www.NMMC1.com).

Olive Branch Church of God

The Olive Branch Church of God live-streams Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. Find it through Facebook, by searching Olive Branch Church, or by visiting www.facebook.com/myolivebranchchurch or through the church website www.olivebranch.church. Click "Live Streaming" at the top, then click the series icon (lion head).

Richvalley United Methodist Church

Worship at Richvalley United Methodist Church begins at 9:30 a.m. Sundays at 290 N. Jefferson St. Sunday school begins at 10:45 a.m. For more information, call 260-563-1033 or email rvumc@hotmail.com.

Southside Free Will Baptist

Streaming on their Facebook page.

Sweetwater Assembly of God

Streaming services online using the normal service schedule.

Urbana Yoke Parish

Rev. Larry Wade of the Urbana Yoke Parish stated that his congregation posts Sunday services to www.urbanayokeparish.com. Go to the menu line at the top of the page and select "Worship Videos." The most recent one will appear first. Sunday services are posted by noon every Tuesday.

Wabash Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Welcome to Wabash Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 110 W. Hill St. In-person worship is at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary or via live-stream for the church at home on the Wabash Christian YouTube Channel. Access is also available on our Facebook page and website [wabashchristian.org](http://www.wabashchristian.org). Stephen Eberhard is the Minister.

Wabash Church of the Brethren

At Wabash Church of the Brethren, 645 Bond St., services will be at 10:30 a.m. Sunday in person. Masks are recommended. There is no children's church or Sunday school at this time. You may reach Pastor Doug Veal at the church office, 260-563-5291, on his cell phone at 260-225-3014, or

by email at pastordoug@wabashcob.org.

Wabash Church of the Nazarene

Pastor Kirk Johnson, of the Wabash Church of the Nazarene, stated their service is available on YouTube on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Find it by going to YouTube and search for "Wabash Nazarene" or search Facebook for the Wabash Church of the Nazarene. Another option is to visit www.wabashnaz.com, look for the home page, and find "Latest Sermon."

Walk by Faith Community Church

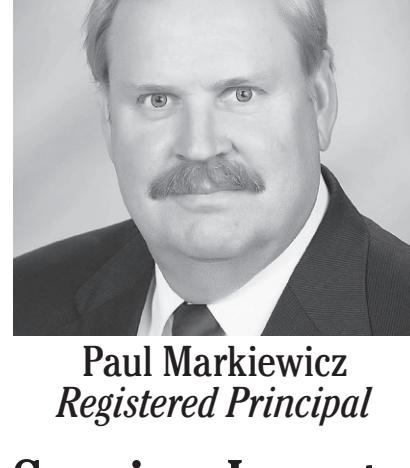
At the Walk by Faith Community Church in Roann, Sunday school begins at 9 a.m. and the worship and children's services begin at 10 a.m. The Walk by Faith Youth ministry meets at 5 p.m. every Sunday. "All are welcomed and we would love for you to join us," said Pastor Judy Tyner. For more information, visit www.walkbyfaithcommunitychurch.com.

Zion Lutheran Church of Wabash

Pastor Jerry Gauthier says that the Zion Lutheran Church of Wabash is streaming through their Facebook page at www.facebook/zionwabash at 10:30 a.m. Sundays.

Editor's note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

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Christmas carols

By DAVE SNOWDON

“Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace, goodwill toward men!” (Luke 2:14) This was the announcement the angels gave to the shepherds 2,000 years ago. The first carol has become the foundation for many of our favorite Christmas carols. We love to hear and sing them throughout the season. Their words and melodies highlight the meaning of the angels’ proclamation. The carols tell the story of God’s promise, but each carol has a story of its own that reflects God’s promise. Here are a few short stories of famous carols.

The parents of Irish poet James Montgomery were Moravian missionaries who died in the West Indies when he was only six. Their lives became his model and he too followed in their footsteps as a Moravian missionary. In 1816, he penned the words, “Angels from the Realms of Glory.” The words proclaim God’s missionary zeal.

Some carols came together through a variety of people. If Charles Wesley had had his way we would sing a carol titled “Hark! How the Welkin (Heaven) Rings.” But the great revivalist George Whitfield changed the words to the familiar “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.” The melody for the carol came 100 years later when English musician William Cummings in 1855, took the melody from a secular cantata written in 1840 by a Jewish believer named Felix Mendelssohn.

The heartache of war has also had its impact on the carols’ message of “peace on earth goodwill to men.” In 1849, the Mexican-American War was over, but the frontier was torn by racism and skirmishes. As a Unitarian minister, Edmund Sears’ passion for “peace on earth” spilled out with the familiar words of the carol, “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear.”

The American Civil War added to the burdens of the poet and recent widower, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. His oldest son had run

off to fight for the Union Army. On Nov. 27, 1863, during the battle of New Hope, Virginia, 17-year-old Lt. Charles Longfellow was severely wounded. Henry brought his son home to care for him. Reflecting on the horrors of war and his son’s wounds, Henry sat at his desk on Christmas Eve of 1863 and penned a poem called “Christmas Bells.” It had a strong antiwar tune. Years later some of his phrases were modified and put to music in 1872. Today we know the song as “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day.” It has become a classic message of hope that “God is not dead ...” and that peace will return to the Earth.

One of the all-time favorite carols came from a songwriter, who at 15 complained to his father that church hymns were boring and meaningless. His father wisely challenged him to write his own. It became his life’s calling and at 15, Isaac Watts wrote his first hymn and before his death in 1748, wrote more than 700 hymns. In 1719, moved by the words of Psalm 98 he wrote the famous carol, “Joy to the World.” This carol is known to be the most uplifting declaration of the Christmas message.

Throughout the generations, since that first carol proclamation by the angels 2,000 years ago, God’s message of Hope has not faltered. Each generation including ours has had its trials, frustrations, wars, hates, calamities, fears and diseases. The Christmas message is eternal and the carols remind us all that “God is not dead; nor does he sleep. The wrong shall fail; the right prevail, with peace on earth, goodwill to men.”

Dave Snowdon and his wife recently moved to the Wabash community to be near six of their 11 grandchildren and their parents. The couple has three adult children and 11 grandchildren. He is a retired Navy Chaplain and veteran of Vietnam and Iraqi Freedom. He also retired from the Christian & Missionary Alliance and Senior Adult Health Care in Friendship Village in Dayton, Ohio.

GM to upgrade Indiana foundry to support electric pickup

BEDFORD (AP) — General Motors is planning a \$51 million upgrade at its aluminum die casting foundry in southern Indiana to support manufacturing of the upcoming electric Chevrolet Silverado pickup.

GM said it will install state-of-the-art equipment at its sprawling Bedford plant, which this year began producing electric drive unit castings for the 2022 GMC Hummer EV Pickup and 2024 GMC Hummer EV SUV. The Herald-Times reported.

Production of the 2022 GMC Hummer EV Pickup will begin this month at GM’s Factory ZERO assembly plant, located in Detroit and Hamtramck, Michigan.

The planned upgrade at the Bedford foundry will support the manufacture of drive unit castings for the Chevrolet

let Silverado EV and other current casting applications, company officials said.

“This investment is another example of the company bringing along our workforce in our journey to an all-electric future while we strengthen our current products,” said Phil Kienle, GM vice president of North America Manufacturing and Labor Relations.

The news of GM’s investment comes less than a year after the company announced a \$7 million plan to increase its die casting capabilities at the plant, which has nearly 900 hourly and salaried workers.

The plant produces cylinder heads, cylinder blocks, transmission cases, structural components, and drive unit housings used in Chevrolet, Buick, GMC and Cadillac vehicles.

Lessons learned about Christmas – by watching old movies

Terry Mattingly



It’s a black-and-white movie Christmas, with snow falling as joyful families mingle on city sidewalks while window-shopping – buying food, presents, decorations and fresh-cut trees for festivities that are only two days away.

For Americans, this scene represents the ghost of Christmas past, long before suburban malls, big-box scrums and Amazon.com. And as “The Bishop’s Wife” opens, an angel – a graceful Cary Grant – enters this 1947 tableau, smiling at carolers and children and helping the needy and lost.

“Christmas is always in danger in Christmas movies – we’d have no reason to make such movies otherwise,” wrote critic Titus Techera, executive director of the American Cinema Foundation. In this classic movie, “we have a remarkable concentration of problems in one household: A man’s faith, his family, community and church ... all tied together.”

It isn’t unusual to find miracles, tight-knit communities, glowing churches and parables about human choices, temptation, sin and redemption in old Christmas films, said Techera, contacted by Zoom while he was visiting Bucharest.

That’s why Techera – a

native of Romania, before his work brought him to America – has written four online essays about the lessons learned from watching

’40s movies that were remade in the ’90s. The other films in this Acton Institute series are “The Shop Around the Corner,” “Miracle on 34th Street” and “Christmas in Connecticut.”

There’s a reason many modern Americans keep watching these movies, he said. Some yearn for a time before most Americans became so isolated – separated by jobs far from extended families, by sprawling suburban neighborhoods and by all the paradoxes built into digital networks that were supposed to keep people connected.

“What we see in these movies is a time when Christmas was a far less commercial celebration and there was quite a bit of continuity with traditions from the past. ... For many, the church was part of that,” he said. “Christmas was a family thing. It was a community thing. ... Commerce was more subservient to

watching the angel offers all of them choices – but allows them to make their own decisions. The angel wrestles with temptations of his own.

“This is the Christian core of the story: The angel comes to remind everyone of what Christmas really means and why it’s tied up with gifts,” noted Techera in his essay. “This is because the Christian God is love. ... God wants the needy protected. So, there is room for pride, but of a special kind: the pride in helping where we can those who need us. They have a claim on us in Christ, but we have reason to feel proud since we accomplish a good thing, sometimes a difficult one.”

The repentant bishop delivers a Christmas sermon, written by the angel, that ends with: “All the stockings

are filled, all, that is, except one. ... The stocking for the child born in a manger. It’s his birthday we’re celebrating. Don’t let us ever forget that. Let us ask ourselves what He would wish for most. And then, let each put in his share – loving kindness, warm hearts and a stretched-out hand of tolerance. All the shining gifts that make peace on Earth.”

Modern remakes of these films, noted Techera, tend to omit the big questions that loomed over the older versions, which – even when they didn’t include direct references to faith – often served as near-biblical parables about hope, gratitude, charity, forgiveness and the ties that bind families and communities.

“There was also a sense that Christmas was worth waiting for,” he said. Today, “the holidays” last for a month or longer and end, rather than begin, on Dec. 25. At that point, “many people seem exhausted, and they no longer even know what Christmas is supposed to be about. ...

“People no longer fast and pray to prepare for Christmas. They just shop.”

Terry Mattingly leads GetReligion.org and lives in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He is a senior fellow at the Overby Center at the University of Mississippi.

McDonald’s, facing lawsuit by 77 Black former franchisees, launching \$250 million minority initiative

By ROBERT CHANNICK

Chicago Tribune (TNS)

McDonald’s announced a \$250 million, five-year initiative Wednesday to increase the number of minority-owned franchisees across the restaurant chain in the U.S.

The program will seek to reduce upfront equity requirements and provide alternatives to traditional financing to help new franchisees from historically underrepresented groups join the McDonald’s restaurant system, the company said.

“During a period of record performance, we must challenge ourselves – even more – to invest in the future,” McDonald’s President and CEO Chris Kempczinski said in a news release. “Today’s announcement to attract franchisees who represent the diverse communities we serve is fundamental to that goal and builds on McDonald’s rich history and pride in reflecting those we serve.”

Chicago-based McDonald’s has 39,000 restaurants worldwide, including 14,000 in the U.S., of which 93 percent are franchised. The fast-food giant said Asian, Black and Hispanic owners represent 29.6 percent of its U.S. franchisees, while women account for 28.9 percent.

The minority franchisee initiative will increase recruiting efforts for under-

represented entrepreneurs, many of whom may have limited access to capital, the company said. McDonald’s also will reduce upfront equity requirements for eligible candidates and leverage its network of banking partners to help capitalize franchisee candidates.

“Access to capital continues to be a challenge in clos-

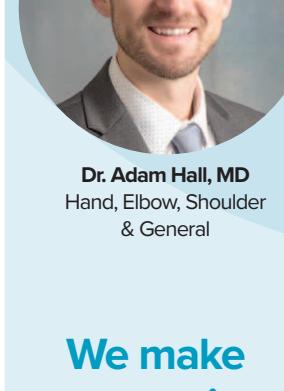
ing the wealth gap in the U.S. – particularly for minority entrepreneurs,” said Nicole Elam, president and CEO of the National Bankers Association, which is working with minority-owned banks to help capitalize franchisee candidates.

An August 2020 discrimination lawsuit brought by

77 Black former franchise

owners alleges McDonald’s steered them to less profitable restaurants and didn’t give them rent relief and other financial support made available to white franchisees. The lawsuit alleges there has been an exodus of Black owners in recent years and that less than 200 Black franchisees remain in the McDonald’s chain.

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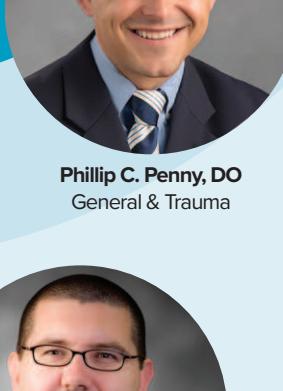
Dr. Adam Hall, MD

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Dr. Brandon S. Huggins, MD

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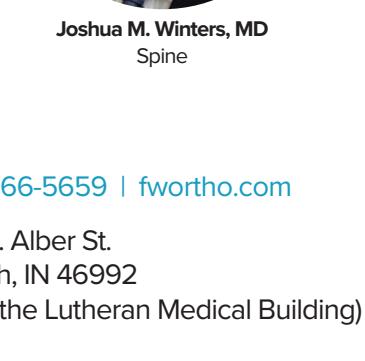
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Indiana may soon get its 2nd underwater shipwreck preserve

By JOSEPH S. PETE

The Times

MICHIGAN CITY, Ind. — More than a century ago, townspeople wearied of looking at the fire-torched hull of the SS Muskegon, which had been abandoned in the Michigan City marina.

So they dragged it out into Lake Michigan and sank it.

Now the shipwreck of the 211-foot freighter that sank near Mount Baldy in Michigan City in 1911 could become Indiana's second underwater preserve.

Indiana University's Center for Underwater Science is leading a charge to create the preserve about 2.8 miles from the Mount Baldy beach at a depth of about 30 feet. It would follow the J.D. Marshall Preserve, just off the shore at the Indiana Dunes State Park, that commemorates the capsized ship and four crew members whose history is on display at the state park's Nature Center and Michigan City's Old Lighthouse Museum.

The preserve designation would mark the site with buoys and protect it for scuba diving and exploration. It would establish boundaries for boats, likely lead to interpretive signs along the shore and provide the public with virtual tours.

Divers can see the ship's frame, propeller, driveshaft, steam engine and twin boilers in their watery final resting place under Lake Michigan.

IU Center for Underwater Science Director Charles Beeker submitted the nomination to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Beeker, a diver who also helped establish the J.D. Marshall Preserve, had been working on the preserve designation on and off since 2000 before it was fast-tracked after the coronavirus pandemic hit last year.

"I've had meetings with the Indiana DNR and it's moving forward," he said. "The state accepted the nomination. We're now working on the details and soliciting local support. We're pleased the state has taken our recommendation."

Divers discovered the shipwreck in the 1960s. Now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it's one of 50 shipwrecks off the Indiana coast and 6,000 in the Great Lakes, Beeker said.

"This leads to people going out in boats and tourism," he said. "It's a special level of enhancement that will result in a historical marker, buoys, interesting materials and a meaningful experience diving there."

The SS Muskegon was a 1,199 gross ton freighter also known at one point as the Peerless under different ownership. At different points in its lifespan, it ferried passengers, hauled freight, sucked up sand from the bottom of Lake Michigan and was suspected at one point to be a floating host for gambling.

"For its first 25 years, it was one of the finest ships carrying freight on the Great Lakes," Beeker said. "It was a vessel with no equal at its time."

It's not feasible to see the shipwreck via snorkeling, as the water is not very clear at that depth. But it's easy to reach via boat or kayak.

"It's the same thing as the J.D. Marshall, which is about 400 yards offshore," he said. "It makes it easy to appreciate. You have other Great Lakes shipwrecks 100 feet down where little is exposed. This is a fun dive, not a hardcore dive."

Even for those who don't dive, the nature preserve will help raise awareness about the boat's history.

"Not many have been to the Titanic shipwreck site," Beeker said.

Large studies show huge benefit of COVID-19 booster shots

By MELISSA HEALY
Los Angeles Times (TNS)

In research likely to galvanize U.S. support for booster shots, scientists found that Israel's aggressive campaign to shore up waning coronavirus immunity with a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine has saved lives and reduced new infections across the age spectrum.

Booster shots drove down cases of severe COVID-19 and death in older Israelis and reduced infections in senior citizens and middle-aged adults, the research shows.

But boosters prevented new infections most dramatically in 16- to 29-year-olds – a finding with potentially far-reaching implications.

During a period this fall when coronavirus infections in Israel were surging, older adolescents and adults under 50 who got a third shot of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine were 13 times less likely to test positive than their vaccinated peers who did not get the booster. That protective effect was seen starting two weeks after the third jab and continued for another few weeks until the study period ended.

Israelis 50 and over who got a booster shot were about 10 times less likely than their unboosted peers to test positive for an infection while they were tracked – a period that lasted as long as two months.

Boosted Israelis who were 60 and over reduced their risk of becoming severely ill with COVID-19 by a factor of more than 12 compared to their counterparts who didn't get a third shot. And in these older adults, a booster drove down COVID-19 death rates by a factor of close to 15.

A second study, which tracked Israelis 50 and over for as long as eight weeks, found a similar level of protection. Those who got a booster were 10 times less



A man walks toward the check-in for the COVID-19 vaccine at a pop up clinic offering vaccines and booster shots in Rosemead, California on Nov. 29.

likely to die of COVID-19 than their vaccinated peers who didn't get a third shot.

Both studies were published Wednesday in the New England Journal of Medicine.

At a moment when many vaccinated Americans are hesitant to get a booster shot – even considering the uncertain risks posed by the Omicron variant – the new research suggests that the extra dose can make a powerful difference. The findings suggest that, if widely used, boosters would slow viral transmission and, among older people, stave off further waves of serious illness and death.

Indeed, the authors of the both studies expressed hope that their results would prompt other countries to strengthen their endorsements of booster shots – especially for adults under 65.

In Israel, as in the U.S., the vast majority of coronavirus infections are due to the Delta variant. But health officials are bracing for the possibility that the rapidly spreading Omicron variant may displace Delta.

Coincidentally, the new research comes on a day when Pfizer and BioNTech acknowledged that two doses of its vaccine "may not be sufficient to protect against infection with the Omicron

variant." Compared to the original version of the coronavirus, lab tests that pitted Omicron against the blood serum of people who'd had two doses of the vaccine detected a 25-fold reduction in neutralizing antibodies, the immune proteins that thwart the virus.

That "could still offer a sufficient level of protection from disease of any severity caused by the Omicron variant," said Dr. Ugur Sahin, BioNTech's chief executive. But broad use of boosters "around the world could help us to better protect people everywhere and to get through the winter season," he added.

Pfizer and BioNTech reiterated that they could have a vaccine tailored to Omicron ready within 100 days.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, President Biden's senior advisor on the pandemic, told CNN on Wednesday that the preliminary reports from Pfizer "make me breathe a little better."

To look around the pandemic's corner, U.S. health officials have relied heavily on the well-documented experiences of Israel, a country of 8.8 million with a nationalized healthcare system that relies exclusively on the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

Israel's vaccination cam-

paign has consistently been a step ahead of the one in the United States. Researchers in the tiny Jewish state were among the first to observe the waning of vaccine-induced immunity. The Israeli government reacted swiftly to that news by launching a campaign of nearly universal boosters in late summer. The third shots became available July 30 for Israelis over 60, and to all vaccinated Israelis 12 and over a month later.

The studies published Wednesday are the first to gauge the impact of boosters on a large scale and in a wide range of age groups. One of those studies drew from a national database of nearly 4.7 million Israelis 16 and over who got at least two shots of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. The other study tracked COVID-19 deaths among 843,208 Israelis over 50.

Their principal limitation is their relatively short span: they capture immunity for as little as five weeks and no more than 12 weeks following boosters, though they establish a rigorous baseline for further tracking.

"Understanding the protective effect of the booster in younger age groups is key for formulating public health policy," wrote the authors of the larger study, which was led by Yinon M. Bar-On of the Weizmann Institute of Science. "Booster vaccination programs may provide a way to control transmission without costly social distancing measures and quarantines."

The two studies "reinforce the notion that from a scientific perspective, the mRNA vaccines really should be thought of as a series of three doses," said Dr. William Schaffner, an infectious diseases specialist at Vanderbilt University. It's a pattern of deepening immunity seen, for instance, in the vaccine that protects against Hepatitis B, he said.

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